

### Salvador's Duarte dies

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Jose Napoleon Duarte, who became El Salvador's first democratically elected president in 1984 and was unable to end a 19-year civil war, died Friday, his doctor said. He was 64. "Duarte died of respiratory failure at 11:30 (a.m. or 1730 GMT)," said his personal physician, Jose Luis Zamora. He had battled cancer in his stomach and liver for 11 months. In May 1988, doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington diagnosed the cancer. They removed 60 per cent of Duarte's stomach and said the cancer had spread to his liver. Doctors gave him six to 18 months to live, but he outlasted the predictions. He was reported near death at least two times previously. His condition worsened this week, and doctors said death was imminent. Duarte was elected president in 1984, inheriting the task of replacing an authoritarian, semi-federal system with democracy. "He didn't work miracles," said a high-ranking U.S. diplomat who served in El Salvador for most of Duarte's term. "But he was credited with instituting the democratic system itself. His great legacy is the transition of government. The rest pales by comparison."

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### Izzeddin questions superpowers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The right of the Soviet citizens to emigrate should not be at the expense of other citizens and the right to self-determination should not be restricted to Soviet citizens; this is the Jordanian message to Moscow, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin said Friday. The King also wants to ask the United States why there had been a change in its view, under President Carter, that settlements in the occupied territories were illegal, the minister told reporters while he was inspecting the press centre set up at the Sports City for media coverage of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit which opens Saturday. He said the Arabs would demand from the U.S. to declare Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal and therefore American aid to the Jewish state also as illegal. The Arabs will also seek European help in this regard, he added. Jordan is being subjected to immense pressure from various sources, including Israel, but the Kingdom is resisting all such pressures, he said. The minister expected closer coordination among the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union called for unified political and economic strategies among the three blocs.

### Yugoslav president visits Egypt Monday

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav President Jovanovic will leave on a three-day visit to Egypt Monday. Tanjug news agency said Friday. His talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were expected to further cooperation between the two non-aligned countries, especially in the economic sphere, it said.

### Mandela to visit Tanzania next month

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela will visit Tanzania from March 6 to 8 for talks with government leaders and a tour of ANC camps, a spokesman said Friday. The head of the reception committee for Mandela in Tanzania, Brigadier Moses Nanyo, said Mandela was coming as a guest of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party and would meet President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and former President Julius Nyerere. Mandela, accompanied by his wife Winnie, will also visit ANC farming and educational settlements near Morogoro.

### Britain changes visa rules

LONDON (AP) — Algerians, Moroccans and Tunisians will need visas to enter the United Kingdom, Home Secretary David Waddington announced Friday. The numbers of citizens of these countries who turn out to be ineligible to enter this country had led to an increased burden for immigration control and "delays and inconvenience for passengers," Waddington said in a written statement to the House of Commons.

### Italy evacuates most Beirut staff

ROME (R) — Italy has evacuated most of its embassy staff in Beirut in recent weeks because of fighting but does not plan to close the mission, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. "We have progressively reduced personnel to the bare minimum necessary to ensure an adequate diplomatic presence," a spokesman said. "However, there are no plans at present to close the embassy."

### Protesters riot in two Kenyan cities

NAIROBI (R) — Anti-government riots erupted in two Kenyan cities Friday following the funeral of a popular minister who demonstrators believe was murdered. The disturbances, in the capital Nairobi and the provincial city of Kisumu, were the worst since an attempted coup against President Daniel Arap Moi in 1982. The more violent clashes were in Kisumu, 400 kilometres west of Nairobi, where police battled with several thousand people who had gathered to see Foreign Minister Robert Ouko's body lying in state in the city's sports stadium. A Reuters correspondent in Kisumu, Kenya's third city, said he saw police fire repeatedly over the heads of the crowd and lob tear-gas canisters into houses to clear them of demonstrators who had taken refuge. At least one person was injured by a police bullet. In Nairobi, not police chased small groups of demonstrators in the centre of the city for several hours.

### Fadallah urges hostages' release

BEIRUT (R) — A leading pro-Iranian Muslim cleric appealed Friday for the release of 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, saying the West had used their plight to defame Islam. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah, the spiritual mentor of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), issued the appeal during Friday prayers after visiting Iran earlier this month. "We have to find practical and humanitarian means to free the kidnapped foreigners because this issue has been exploited a lot by Western powers in order to defame the image of Islam and Muslims," he said in the second such appeal in two days. The pro-government Tehran Times said in an editorial on Thursday: "Regardless of the West's propaganda ploys, Muslim forces out of Islamic and humanitarian considerations, should work to get the hostages free with no precondition."



His Majesty King Hussein Friday receives Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon their arrival (Photos by Yousef Al 'Alam and Petra).

## ACC summit opens today

Soviet influx to Palestine, Arab water situation pressing concerns — Qasem

By Nouran Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit here today will focus on pressing regional and economic issues and the member states high on its agenda.

The leaders of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan will deliberate over the next two days Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, threats posed to Arab water resources, and the dead-end in efforts to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The four leaders will also discuss developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "which have upset many balances and disrupted the international political strategic situation," Marwan Qasem, deputy prime minister and foreign minister who

is also official spokesman, told reporters.

Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine figured high during the talks of foreign ministers of the four countries Saturday evening and was described by Qasem as

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## Leaders gather

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) gathered here Friday and prepared for their third formal summit which opens today.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and high-level officials were at hand to welcome President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the top-level delegations accompanying them.

Following colourful welcoming ceremonies at the Queen Alia

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## Israelis bar Palestinians from prayers at Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops on Friday barred Palestinians from entering Jerusalem for noon prayers to prevent demonstrations and Palestinians staged a rare peace march in Nablus.

In the Gaza Strip, a suspected Arab informer died after being beaten and stabbed last week by unknown activists, reports said.

Also Friday, the Israeli army said troops raiding the West Bank village of Sinjil arrested 19 Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists and sealed three homes of Palestinians accused of killing two suspected Arab collaborators.

In the West Bank, 50 masked Palestinians marched through the

city of Nablus with placards calling on the United Nations to protect the "unarmed children of Palestine," reports said.

Other placards denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The wall of Berlin has fallen down, but the wall of racism in Shamir's head has not been destroyed," one banner read.

Army and police set up roadblocks around Jerusalem on Friday and turned away Palestinians from the occupied territories trying to reach the city's Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques for Friday noon prayers, Palestinian reporters said.

In the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, an Associated Press reporter saw troops turn away

two Palestinian-run buses en route to the city.

Police said the roadblocks were set up for security checks. They would not say whether security forces were under orders to turn away all Palestinians from the occupied lands.

"This is a sensitive day," a spokesman said, referring to the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The actual anniversary was Thursday, but police said authorities feared demonstrations after Friday's noon prayers.

In Thursday's the army raid of Sinjil, a village of 4,000 people near Ramallah, troops rounded up 19 Palestinians.

## Beirut truce rattled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces duelled with mortars and tank cannon in east Beirut Friday, shattering efforts to reopen roads and stabilise a ceasefire in the intra-Christian showdown.

## ACC seeks Arab action on hot political issues

By Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — Increased political and economic coordination, and difficult regional and international problems, including the implications of a prospective massive Jewish influx to Israel, are expected to dominate the deliberations of the four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) who open the council's first anniversary summit in Amman today.

Talks between the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan are expected to cover the deadlocked efforts to settle the 15-year-old Lebanese civil strife, the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process, the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf after eight years of bloody conflict between Iran and Iraq and the impact of the expected political unity between North and South Yemen on the make-up and functions of the council.

The four leaders — His Majesty King Hussein and presidents Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen — are also expected to discuss the impact of rapid changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on the Arab World, Arab officials said. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Friday that water would be an important subject for discussion among the four leaders.

The Arab officials hope that the ACC summit would draw up a strategy to counter the

threat of the Soviet Jewish influx but many believe that any concerted Arab action to counter the threat has to come through an Arab summit, prospects of which have been somewhat dimmed lately.

Jordan, which feels directly threatened by Soviet migration to Israel, has repeatedly warned that any Israeli settlement of such a large number of immigrants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will not only undermine all prospects for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict but will also pose a grave threat to Jordan and the rest of the Arab World in the form of "greater Israel."

Jordanian leaders have said that Israel will have to resort to mass eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories to the East Bank to make room for the expected wave of immigrants. Political observers have pointed out that any dramatic increase in Israel's Jewish population would dilute its desire for peace based on what it sees as the demographic threat posed by its 750,000-strong Arab population as well as the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied lands.

The Jordanian fears are shared by all the Arab states, and one of the expected results of the two-day ACC summit is an emphatic call for an extraordinary Arab League summit to

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## Arafat says he approved Palestinian representation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in a letter released Friday that he had approved the participation of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in peace talks with Israel.

It was the formal statement by the PLO leader that he has approved terms for Israeli-Palestinian talks, although there have been hints from Cairo that he was moving in that direction.

Arafat said in the letter that the PLO would prefer an international peace conference and "guarantees that can only be provided by the great powers and the United Nations."

But he added: "The PLO once more leaned over backward and approved the idea of a dialogue

between representatives of the Israeli government and representatives of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora."

He said that such talks would have to be part of a process "aimed at a comprehensive and final settlement" and that its agenda "could cover all the conceptual ingredients of that process, including the elections and the 10 Egyptian points."

The "10 Egyptian points" were recommendations put forward by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to try to get a consensus with Israel on preliminary peace talks.

Mubarak, backed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, has offered to host an initial Israeli-Palestinian dialogue aimed at reviving stalled Middle

East peace efforts.

Those talks are expected to help clear the way for Israeli-proposed elections in the occupied territories leading to limited autonomy of the areas' 1.7 million Palestinian residents.

Efforts to get the talks under way have been stalled by Israeli concerns over the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda.

Israeli, which refuses to deal with the PLO, has not yet agreed to participate in the preliminary talks urged by Mubarak.

Arafat's letter was sent to a meeting here by Jewish peace activists called the Special Emergency World Jewish Leadership Peace Conference, which

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## Baker tells Israel to stop bickering, launch process

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Friday it was time his government wholeheartedly backed its own proposal for Palestinian elections in occupied territories, U.S. administration sources said.

Baker met Arens Friday amid reports that U.S. President George Bush and the secretary of state himself had reaffirmed that Washington remained opposed to Israel's policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One administration source said Baker had expressed the same sentiments to Arens, although he realised that the Israeli minister would have to report back to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir before any decisions could be taken.

"The sense of the meeting was that Baker said 'we've talked long enough, say yes to your own proposal and let's move forward,'" the source said.

Adding to the pressure on Shamir, his partner in Israel's national unity coalition, the Labour Party, set a two-week deadline earlier this week for Israel to move on peace talks and threatened to bring down the government if there was no progress (see page 2).

Bush also urged faster progress in peace efforts in a telephone conversation with Shamir on Thursday. A White House statement said Bush had "expressed his hope that the peace process could move forward so that the

U.S., Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers could meet and that a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian delegations would take place in Cairo soon."

After a meeting scheduled for 45 minutes but which lasted twice that length, Baker told reporters Friday there was still no agreement on the date for his and Arens' meeting with the Egyptian Foreign Minister aimed at paving the way for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"No, we have not agreed today on the timetable for a trilateral meeting because we're not there yet. But I think we're making some progress," Baker said.

"We are continuing to work on some of the same issues that

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## Israelis bomb PFLP in Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Israeli warplanes staged an early morning raid against a Palestinian base near this southern provincial capital Friday, police said.

A police spokesman said the raid targeted a base manned by guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the Kfar Falous hills, east of Sidon.

The spokesman said at least three Israeli jet fighters carried out the five-minute attack at 2:15 a.m. (0015 GMT).

The raiding jet fighters fired six air-to-surface missiles against the PFLP base, he said.

A casualty report was not immediately available.

Witnesses in Sidon, 40 kilometres from Beirut, said the jets roared low over the city, shaking them out of bed.

"We rushed to basements and air raid shelters assuming the city was under attack," said Fatima

Hableh, a housewife.

Her husband, Hassan Hableh, said he watched the planes releasing scarlet balloons to deflect heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles.

The raiding jet, Hassan Hableh said, also released parachute flares that illuminated the whole region.

Guerrilla defenders fired heavily at the planes from anti-aircraft guns.

"I could see tracer anti-aircraft rounds in the sky, exploding around the planes into small puffs of white smoke. But none of the planes was hit," he said.

At dawn, around three hours after the air attack, smoke continued to billow from the stricken target, a two-storey building used by Palestinian guerrillas for about four years.

The air attack came less than 10 hours after a raid that targeted pro-Iranian guerrillas in the near-

## King voices concern over peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced concern over the future of efforts for peace in the Middle East saying the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was undermining prospects for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The King, in an interview with the Egyptian newspapers Al Gounhouriya and Al Massa on the eve of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit in Amman, assailed Israel's rejection of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a negotiating partner in peace talks.

"There can be no solution unless the PLO is a principal party to negotiations," he said.

King Hussein welcomed the idea of convening an Arab League summit to discuss the latest developments in the various issues facing the Arab World but said such a gathering should be preceded by careful preparations to that all issues could be tackled comprehensively.

The formation of the ACC by Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq one year ago, the King said, was a positive step towards achieving Arab unity and the council's achievements during its first year have raised Arab hopes for unity and integration.

The King said the council would follow the same course of action it charted during the first year of its existence. "We are on the threshold of genuinely launching the implementation of what we agreed during the first year," he said.

The King called on all Arab leaders to take full benefit of available resources and seek Arab integration so that the Arab World would have a strong and influential presence in the international scene. "Narrow and limited perspectives based on individual interests will never help achieve integration," he said.

"Rather, they will help deplete Arab resources and ability to counter the dangers facing us."

The King paid tribute to Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation, which he said was based on mutual confidence and trust and called for continued consultation and coordination between the two.

The King said Jordan's economic problems owed their origins primarily to the fact that the Kingdom had the longest Arab confrontation line with Israel and its support for the Palestinian cause. Israel would never have been able to continue its policies had it not been for the "continued support from world Jews and from forces on whom the Jews have a great influence," he said.

The King said he was not fully aware of the details of the present situation in the peace process, and that he hoped to be fully briefed on the issue by Egyptian

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by village of Libas, wounding three fighters.

It was Israel's seventh air raid this year, and a rare one carried out in the middle of the night.

On Feb. 16, Israeli aircraft attacked a position near Sidon used by the mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia.

On Monday, Israeli jets bombed a base near Sidon belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The targets attacked were used as organisation points for assaults against Israel," an Israeli statement said.

It did not say who controlled the bases.

Beirut radio stations reported that jets made two bombing runs and hit a base belonging to a Lebanese fundamentalist militia known as the Islamic Grouping. Three guerrillas were reported injured in the attack.



## Shamir shrugs off ultimatum on steps towards peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, under pressure from the dovish Labour Party, his own Likud and the United States, has said he will not accept any ultimatum on steps towards Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The rightist Shamir shrugged off a decision by coalition partner Labour Thursday to set a two-week deadline for Israel to "discuss and decide" the issues that will enable the beginning of peace negotiations.

"I did not receive any ultimatum and I will not accept any ultimatum from anyone," said the 74-year-old premier, who has frequently insisted he is immune from pressure.

"When there is a need to bring a subject to discussion in the inner cabinet or the government, I will bring the subject to discussion," he told reporters.

Likud hardliners, divided for the past week on how to oppose Shamir's initiative for Palestinian elections in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, reunited to criticize Shamir for not immediately rejecting Labour's demands.

Likud rebel leader Ariel Sharon said Shamir was causing the disintegration of Likud, Israel's dominant party.

"(Shamir) is sandwiched between the Labour ministers pressing for diplomatic progress and the (Likud) camp that is opposed," political commentator Hanan Kristal told Israeli television.

"It appears that he has a nearly

impossible task. He must choose whether to go with Labour in diplomatic pursuits or with his party and indirectly break up the government," he said.

Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the pivotal figure in the 14-month-old coalition and co-author of Israel's election plan, made clear Shamir had to speed up the search for peace if the government was to continue.

Rabin backed Labour's two-week deadline, imposed a day before Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington.

In a veiled warning to Israel, Baker told a congressional committee Thursday: "We need action. We've done a lot of talking, maybe we can do some more talking, but the time for action is coming very, very close."

He praised Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Magid for cooperating ahead of proposed Egyptian and U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on Israel's election plan.

Baker said progress was possible if Arens could be "equally forthcoming." But Israeli political sources said Arens, a Likud member, would not be able to commit Israel to any position

because of the Likud-Labour differences.

The Labour resolution did not specify what action the party would take if Shamir did not meet its demands. Rabin said it was not an ultimatum but stressed the policy discussion must start within a fortnight.

He said earlier that three weeks was enough time to reach a decision on peace moves.

Likud members have blamed the Arab side for much of the delay in convening the Cairo talks, but Rabin said Egypt's position now made talks feasible.

Egypt has been consulting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on terms for the talks, although Israel refuses to acknowledge any role for the PLO.

Likud opposes Egyptian demands for participation by Palestinians who live in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem or who have been expelled in the past for security offences. Labour supports both proposals.

Jewish activists call for peace talks

Meanwhile Jewish peace activists from the United States, Canada and Europe said Thursday that Jews abroad are becoming increasingly impatient with Israel for failing to open peace talks with the Palestinians.

"I believe that a major rift is imminent between Israel and the Jewish communities abroad," warned Abraham Rotstein, an economics professor at the Uni-

versity of Toronto.

"I sense a growing alienation of leading Jewish communities from the state of Israel as it continues to deny statehood to the Palestinians and continues its occupation of the West Bank," he added.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, have been torn by a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule for more than two years.

U.S. and Egyptian efforts to start Israeli-Palestinian talks have stalled over Israeli demands for "assurances" that the PLO be denied even an indirect role.

Rotstein's call for reviving the peace process was echoed by other speakers at a meeting in Israel called "the emergency world Jewish leadership peace conference."

The conference, sponsored by the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East drew 450 participants, with about one-third from abroad.

The goal of the two-day meeting was to try to convince Israel's factionalized government to move toward peace talks, said Willy Gafni, the centre's director.

"The atmosphere is growing against Israel," Gafni said. "Participants are saying how they perceive it in their countries. Our leaders should listen, and listen well."

Among the speakers was Rita Hauser, a New York attorney who drew the ire of Israeli hardliners when she and four other American Jews met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988.

Shortly after the meeting, Arafat publicly recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. The United States opened a limited dialogue with the PLO, but Israel has persisted in calling the PLO a terrorist group and in refusing to negotiate with it.

"The whole world is frustrated with Israel," Hauser said in an interview at the conference.

## 40 Israeli soldiers jailed for mass disobedience

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 40 Israeli soldiers were jailed this week for going absent without leave (AWOL) in an unprecedented case of mass disobedience, family members and the army said Friday.

The soldiers, in their third and final year of compulsory service in the Golani Infantry Brigade, returned three days late from weekend leave in protest at their treatment by a new commander, family members said.

The Golani Brigade commander jailed the protest organisers for 56 days while the other soldiers were jailed for between 14 and 28 days, the Al Hamishmar newspaper said.

It said the commander ordered soldiers to perform continual drills and fatigue duty normally reserved for new recruits in basic training.

"In this case there was infraction of accepted disciplinary norms for the Israeli army and it was handled by the brigade commander," an army spokesman said. He would not confirm the length of the prison terms.

Jewish and Druse Arab Israeli men are drafted at the age of 18 for three years while women must serve two years. After discharge Israeli men continue to serve in the reserves until age 54.

## Salvage boats work against time to save cargo of burning tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The U.S. Navy warned vessels Friday to keep a distance six kilometres from the devastated Surf City tanker as an army of salvage boats worked around the clock to keep its combustible cargo from exploding.

The U.S.-flagged, Kuwait tanker was loaded with naphtha and diesel fuel for Italy Thursday when an explosion ripped through it about 32 kilometres off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast.

Its American captain and first mate were killed. The U.S. Navy identified the victims as Derrick F. Linardich, the 38-year-old captain of Norfolk, Virginia; and Steven P. McHugh, the 34-year-old first mate from East Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

The other 23 seamen, all American but one, abandoned the burning ship and were rescued by the U.S. Navy frigate USS Simpson. Four of them were injured and airlifted to hospitals in Dubai, but their condition was not described as serious.

The cause of the explosion has not been confirmed, but speculation about mines was ruled out by the U.S. Navy and the owners.

C. Miles Sheldon, head of Chesapeake Shipping Inc., the subsidiary used by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. (KOTC) to operate its American-registered tankers, told a press conference in Dubai, UAE that the two bodies were recovered and are in Dubai awaiting the completion of formalities before being sent home.

The 23 rescued men would also be flown home from Dubai after completion of formalities, Sheldon said.

He said the condition of the vessel remains unpredictable although the fire and been contained.

In case of total loss, he estimated value of ship and cargo at

over \$30 million, adding "at the time however, we do not feel it's a total loss. The ship is listing three degrees to port as a result of the loss of cargo."

The cargo lost was only naphtha which burns easily and evaporates, causing minimal pollution, he said.

Both Sheldon and Roger Croft, heading the investigation from the insurers Lloyds of London, discounted the possibility that the ship was hit by a floating mine.

Sheldon said "the explosion according to our reports occurred above the waterline," and Croft added, "there was no water in the eruption following the explosion."

Investigations were proceeding, they said.

Because the explosion occurred halfway between the UAE Emirate of Umm Al Quwain and the Iranian island of Abu Musa, it provoked speculation that it might have been caused by an Iranian mine or other explosive. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards used the islands as a base for ship attacks during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Capt. Ron Wildermuth, chief spokesman for the Central Command in Florida which oversees the U.S. Naval Forces, said initial reports indicated the explosion was caused by an internal accident.

Seaman Wayne Cohen said work was being done on one of the ship's starboard cargo tanks when the incident occurred.

Shipping sources in the southern Gulf region where the tanker was still billowing smoke said that the accommodation quarters had been gutted. But the stem of the tanker, where most of the cargo was stored, was intact and risked blowing up from the heat.

They said that two salvage tugboats from the KOTC owners overnight joined half a dozen

others from the United Arab Emirates, dousing the tanker with foam and water to fend off a more serious explosion.

"The accommodation quarters are still smoldering, and the heat could blow up the cargo, which would be a major disaster," said one of the shipping sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified.

The shipping executives said that the accommodation side bore the brunt of the destruction because the explosion occurred in the tanks underneath it.

The source said the vessel was listing, with the front part only about half a metre above water. The salvage tugboats were trying to keep it from sinking.

Thursday's explosion shook buildings along the distant UAE coast and sent flames leaping into the sky.

The USS Simpson, the missile frigate which was monitoring the movement of the U.S.-flagged vessel from a distance, and the USS Dewey, a missile destroyer in the vicinity, rushed to help the tanker and rescued the crew from lifeboats.

Cohen, a 27-year-old seaman from Boston, injured by flying glass on the bridge, said from his hospital bed that the captain and first mate were not in the lifeboats.

The owners said the U.S. Navy searched for the two for over 10 hours, calling it off only after locating parts of bodies and identifying them to confirm the deaths.

The U.S. Navy has a 10-unit Middle East Force in the Gulf, and monitors movement of U.S.-flagged ships in the Gulf from a distance. It officially ceased the regular escorts it used to conduct at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, mainly from Iranian threats.

## Subversives question Khamenei's leadership, cleric says

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian cleric said Friday subversives in the country's theological schools were trying to undermine spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In an address to Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi spoke of lingering questions in religious circles about Khamenei's credentials for the position of supreme leader.

He urged support for Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and said much of the current anti-government criticism couched in Islamic terms was politically loaded.

Political analysts said Azari Qomi's blunt speech in the capital, broadcast live by Tehran Radio, indicated the rifts were too deep to contain within clerical circles.

"Yesterday some people were saying the leadership must be separated from the theological schools," Azari Qomi said, referring to a meeting of Muslim clerics in the holy city of Qom.

"I said: 'But didn't the imam (the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini) intercede? Came the reply: 'Imam was different to Khamenei'."

A senior clerical assembly elected Khamenei, 51, by a four-fifths majority to succeed Khomeini a day after his death following cancer surgery in June.

Khamenei lacks the top clerical rank of Marja Taqid, "source of imitation," but constitutional changes approved in July lowered the religious qualifications for the leader in favour of political ones.

"Some think: 'Well, I am more knowledgeable than Mr. Khamenei. But knowledge is not everything,'" Azari Qomi said.

"The Marja Taqids put forth great theories, but it is the leader who assesses objective conditions and says which theory is correct."

Azari Qomi — a theological teacher at Qom, mentor of Resalat newspaper which supports the private sector and former member of parliament — told critics to curb their complaints about Rafsanjani's handling of the economy.

"The enemy has infiltrated theological schools and tries to undermine the affairs. I ask everyone to give the government a chance to solve problems with wisdom," he said.

The ayatollah said some people were agitating among relatives of people killed during the Islamic Revolution, saying state radio and television ignored the goals of their loved ones.

"I am not in a position to attack or defend the radio and television, but you gave your sons for the establishment of an Islamic government and then the implementation of Islamic rulings by the leader."

"The leader can suspend Islamic rulings if he deems it necessary, and you should accept this with happiness," Azari Qomi said.

Tehran residents said small groups of demonstrators, some riding motorcycles, called for stricter enforcement of the dress code in the capital last week.

Two weeks ago Ayatollah Abolqassem Khazali, a member of the Guardian Council which oversees the parliament, blasted the television for its music programmes which he said encouraged young people to "dance and commit other decadent acts."

Azari Qomi said another sign of efforts to diminish the leadership was the omission of Khamenei's name in the welcome statement read at the beginning of Iran Air flights.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Kuwait releases 292 prisoners

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has released 292 prisoners, half of them foreigners, as part of National Day celebrations. The Kuwait News Agency said the inmates, freed Thursday, were serving sentences for criminal, civil or traffic offences.

#### EC to give food aid to Palestinians

BRUSSELS (R) — Palestinian refugees are to get 2,400 tonnes of cereals as emergency food aid, the European Community's (EC) executive commission said Friday. The aid will help keep up supplies of food aid being distributed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for these refugees, it said in a statement.

#### Saudi Arabia executes Pakistani

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Friday publicly beheaded a Pakistani convicted of smuggling heroin, the Saudi Press Agency SPA reported. He was the 12th criminal beheaded under the kingdom's strict Islamic Laws this year. Official figures show at least 99 were executed last year.

#### Tunisia releases student leader

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has released a militant Muslim student leader and about 25 other students held since Wednesday for questioning, a student spokesman said Friday. Abdul Latif Makki, secretary general of the Tunisian General Students' Union freed Thursday night, was among 478 students detained after militants occupied university buildings in Tunis and six campuses in the provinces. The students are demanding the government withdraw police from campuses, drop plans to move students from an Islamic Law institute and reinstate three students expelled during disturbances earlier in the academic year. The government says the unrest is an attempt by the unrecognised Islamic movement to prove its strength by dragging neutral students into conflict with the authorities.

#### Doctors safe after kidnap in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — Two Western doctors, abducted three weeks ago by rebels in southern Sudan, were released and their medical relief group suspended operations in the war-torn south. The couple arrived safely in Nairobi, tired and relieved to be going home. Belgian Christine Van Haegenborgh and her Dutch boyfriend Martin Ruppert, told reporters they had made a lengthy trek through the bush with the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Looking thin and sunburnt, the couple, who work for the Belgian section of the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), said they had been well treated.

## Turkey cautious on pro-Armenian resolution rebuff in U.S.

ANKARA (R) — Turkey reacted cautiously Friday to the U.S. Senate's rebuff of a resolution commemorating the alleged genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey during and after World War I.

"We are cautiously optimistic but this is not the end of it. Another vote is expected next Tuesday," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sancar said.

Officials said limited restrictions on U.S. activities in NATO-member Turkey affecting flight training and navy visits would remain in force for the time being. They were imposed after the resolution was mooted late last year.

"The Senate has clearly shown its interest in and the importance it attaches to Turkey by refusing to adopt this resolution," Turkey's ambassador to Washington, Nuzhet Kandemir, told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

Turkey wants the scrapping of the resolution which calls for April 24 to be a national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923.

Successive Turkish governments since the Turkish Republic was forged in 1923 from the ashes of Ottoman Empire have denied Armenian and other claims that up to 1.5 million Armenians were victims of genocide.

"If we can get over this storm we will feel much more relaxed in years to come. Our friends in the Senate have succeeded and we are delighted," one Turkish official said.

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### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel. 773111-19  <b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 15:30 ..... Koran 15:40 ..... Programme review 15:45 ..... Children programme 17:30 ..... Educational programme 18:00 ..... News summary 18:05 ..... Message from Iraq 18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare 19:10 ..... Local programme 19:40 ..... Programme review 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 20:30 ..... Arabic series 21:30 ..... Programme review 21:40 ..... Consumer's Guide 22:25 ..... Local programme 23:00 ..... News in Arabic  <b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> 17:30 ..... Le Monde est a vous 19:00 ..... News in French 19:15 ..... Documentary 19:30 ..... News in Hebrew 19:45 ..... Natural Phenomena 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 20:30 ..... Annie McGinn 21:00 ..... Good Evening Jordan 21:30 ..... Classical Music 22:00 ..... News in English 22:30 ..... Feature film: "A Criminal on the Run"	<b>CHURCHES</b>  St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990 Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Teressule Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541 Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 712561 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 712331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 Assam International Church Tel. 685326 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932  <b>WEATHER</b>  Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. A cold front is expected to affect the	country making it cloudy and rainy. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba winds will be northerly fresh and sea wavy.  Amman ..... 2 / 9 Aqaba ..... 7 / 17 Deraia ..... 1 / 11 Jordan Valley ..... 6 / 17  Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 2, Aqaba 9. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.  <b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>  <b>NIGHT DUTY</b>  AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf ..... 622520 Dr. Khalid Esda ..... 677129 Dr. Walid Sabawneh ..... 779971 Dr. Youssef Rasheed ..... 893281 Firas pharmacy ..... 661912 Fardous pharmacy ..... 778336 Al Asena pharmacy ..... 670555 Ninouda pharmacy ..... 628672 Al Saleha pharmacy ..... 636730 Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945 Shmeisat pharmacy ..... 637660  <b>IRBID:</b> Dr. Anjad Obaidat ..... 774111 Al Shamsa pharmacy ..... (985238)  <b>ZARQA:</b> Dr. Tareq Hijawi ..... 636381 Khalid pharmacy ..... 985417  <b>EMERGENCIES</b>  Civil Defence Department ..... 661111 Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341 Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199 Revista Police ..... 592, 621111, 637771 Fire Brigade ..... 891228 Hotel Complaints ..... 775121 Highway Police ..... 843402 Traffic Police ..... 386390 Public Security Department ..... 639221 Blood Bank ..... 775121 Price Complaints ..... 661176 Water and Sewerage ..... 897467 Complaints ..... 897467 Amman Municipality ..... 671111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121 Overseas Calls ..... 010230 Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101 Abdali Telephone Repair ..... 631101 Jordan Television ..... 773111	<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>  <b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>  This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.  <b>ARRIVALS</b> <b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</b> 06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 07:00 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ) 07:00 Damascus (RJ) 07:15 Aqaba (RJ) 07:30 New Delhi (RJ) 07:30 Cairo (RJ) 07:30 Baghdad (RJ) 07:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 10:00 New York, Montreal (RJ) 10:45 Cairo (RJ)	<b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b> 17:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) 19:40 Tripoli (RJ) 06:15 Aqaba (RJ)  <b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>  <b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>  This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 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Apple ..... 480 / 430 Banana ..... 450 / 400 Banana (Makassar) ..... 400 / 350 Beans ..... 850 / 750 Cabbage ..... 80 / 50 Carrot ..... 180 / 140 Cauliflower ..... 70 / 40 Corn ..... 180 / 140 Cucumbers (large) ..... 330 / 280 Dates ..... 500 / 400 Lettuce (per one) ..... 150 / 100 Garlic ..... 650 / 550 Grapefruit ..... 240 / 200 Lemon ..... 220 / 200 Lettuce (per one) ..... 150 / 100 Marrow (large) ..... 120 / 100 Marrow (small) ..... 250 / 200 Onion (dry) ..... 260 / 220 Onion (green) ..... 250 / 200 Orange (Samsara) ..... 360 / 320 Orange (small) ..... 850 / 750 Pepper (hot) ..... 750 / 650 Pepper (sweet) ..... 150 / 130 Radish ..... 150 / 130 Sage ..... 300 / 250 Spinach ..... 150 / 130 Tomatoes ..... 150 / 100
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## U.S. confident Jordan can overcome economic crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The U.S. administration is very confident of Jordan's ability to overcome its present economic crisis and is continuing to contribute to the development of the Kingdom with a view not only to helping it through the present situation but also setting up long-term economic and industrial bases, according to the American ambassador to Jordan, Roscoe Suddarth.

The total American financial and technical assistance to Jordan for fiscal year 1990 (October 1989 to September 1990) has been earmarked at \$258.7 million — in loans and outright grants — about \$98 million more than fiscal 1989, the ambassador said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Of the total assistance, around \$90 million will be in the form of cash or foreign exchange savings which will help the Kingdom's balance of payments, Suddarth said.

Washington has already rescheduled the Kingdom's repayment of loans to the U.S. government, he noted. An agreement was signed last year to reschedule Jordan's repayment of a total of \$146 million in principle and interest, he said. He declined to give the exact amount of Jordan's debts to the United

States government, but said the rescheduling agreement was finalised in line with the broader accord reached between the Kingdom and the Paris Club of creditor nations.

A split-up of the \$259 million American assistance to Jordan for 1990 shows a total of \$67 million in grants (\$35 million in aid to projects, \$5 million through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and \$27 million in feed grains), \$15 million in housing bonds, \$65 million in guarantees for seven-year loans for the import of grains, \$42 million in guarantees for three-year loans to finance imports of non-grain commodities, \$1.9 million in the form of military training assistance and \$67.78 million in debt write-offs.

According to Ambassador Suddarth, Washington sees Jordan as enjoying the reputation of the "most efficient user of foreign assistance." He noted that American-Jordanian economic cooperation dates back to the 1960s.

"We are fully confident of Jordan's ability to overcome its present economic problems," he said.

The ambassador pointed out that despite tight constraints imposed by its own budget problems, the U.S. had increased its aid to Jordan, from \$250 million spread over three years

up to 1987 to \$160 million for 1989 and the earmarked \$258.77 million for 1990. "We are trying to be basically responsive to Jordan," he said.

The ambassador said the private sector in the Kingdom was one of the most important target areas for American assistance. The Kingdom has very good potential in human resources, and if properly developed, it could go a long way in helping the Kingdom's quest for self-reliance in small and medium-term industries, he said. He cited the example of an entrepreneur who found shoe polish was imported by Jordan and decided to launch a small facility to meet the Kingdom's needs in this field. The man was helped by USAID, "and now he has paid off the loan and is doing very well," the ambassador said.

The ambassador, who began his tour of duty in Jordan in 1987, recalled that he was last in Amman 15 years back when the country was engaged in building infrastructure. "That phase is over now, and what we are seeing today is development based on what was achieved over the years."

According to Suddarth, American aid to Jordan covers "water and waste-water projects, health services, and education to loans for small businessmen."

The private sector develop-



Roscoe Suddarth

ment programme, administered through USAID, includes business advisory services, training and education, credits, and includes almost all spheres of development in the Kingdom such as manufacturing, agriculture, exporters and tourism. Suddarth pointed out that it was mostly through help from USAID that Jordanian agricultural exporters took part in the recent "Green Week" international exhibition held in West Berlin. "They not only sold out all of the five tonnes of produce on display but also received orders for about 50 tonnes," he said.

American aid to Jordan also includes scholarships for students, advanced training for the Kingdom's military personnel, and orientation courses for administrative staff in the public and private sectors.

## Hotly contested elections for engineers association extended

By Mariam M. Shabib  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The hotly contested race for the Executive Council of the Jordan Engineering Association (JAE) has been extended until today as only one-third of the potential voters showed up at the polls until 6 p.m. Friday.

Out of 8,932 registered voters only 3,195 had turned up by the 6 p.m. deadline and thus the required 51 per cent quorum necessary to count election results was not met and the voting was extended to Saturday.

The expected turnout this year is anywhere from 5,500 to 6,500, which is more than the turnout at the last elections in 1988 in which 5,000 engineers cast their votes, according to observers.

The elections, in which two blocs are vying for the presidency and Executive Council is expected to be one of the closest in the association's history, the observers said.

Neither of the two blocs, which have dominated the association's election scene for years, were

able to claim the lead in the race Friday night.

Presidential candidate of the "White" bloc, Ahmad Keilani, felt that the Whites had a good chance of getting at least four if not more seats on the 10-member Executive Council. His bloc is a conglomeration of Islamists of various shades and pro-establishment elements.

In competition with the Whites is the "Green" bloc, which is headed by presidential candidate Ismail Brewish. The Greens are a coalition of political trends that are basically pan-Arab nationalists and leftists who believe that they will attract more voters because of their different approach to social and political issues.

Supporters of the Whites, apparently encouraged by the success of Islamists in the Parliamentary elections, charged Friday that the Greens are "too politicised, don't concentrate on the professional issues and are too soft on Israel." Supporters of the Greens are quick to counter the accusations.

"The Greens have always stood for the downtrodden, and defended the weak," said one of the Green blocs organisers. "We have candidates that are unemployed and we care about the professional issues which are the most important for us. The Whites on the other hand have always been aligned to the establishment and you can see what the establishment did for all our unemployed an underpaid."

### Organisation

Although observers said that the Greens have traditionally been more organised than the Whites, Keilani said that the Whites had pooled support for the elections. "Two hundred of our supporters were each entrusted with recruiting 10 voters for the Whites. That makes 2,000 votes," Keilani told the Jordan Times.

While the association, like most other professional unions and organisations, has served as a prominent forum for airing political views and thoughts in the

absence of political parties in Jordan, many members and organisers now say they want to change the emphasis on politics and concentrate on professional issues.

The relatively low turnout surprised many and some hoped that the extension would give more of a chance to those who were undecided. The final results are expected to be announced after midnight Saturday.

Preliminary results in the five electoral districts were announced Friday evening. This is the first time that branches of the association have been able to cast their ballots from their districts. The move to decentralise the association's structure was seen as part of a future trend that the 23,000-member organisation is seeking.

The results in the five electoral districts were as follows: in Karak 70 out of 98 registered voters cast their ballots, in Irbid 228 out of 600, in Ma'an 24 out of 39, in Aqaba 113 out of 146 and in Amman 2,279 out of 8,049.

## Jordan explains its drug policy

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Abdullah Salah said the Kingdom has embarked on the necessary steps to prevent usage of its territory for drug trafficking.

Jordan's location between producing and consuming states has imposed on it special responsibilities to block the passage of narcotics through its land, Salah Thursday told an extraordinary session of the U.N. General Assembly on international cooperation in combating production, supply, demand and trafficking of narcotics.

Salah pointed out that Jordan had revamped its penal code with a view to imposing the heaviest penalties on narcotic traffickers. He said the Ministry of Health plays an effective role in combating the misuse of drugs and supervises all activities related to the use of such drugs. The ministry is also promoting awareness of the dangers of drugs and addiction and is treating addicts in a specialised centre.

Jordan has also formed a national committee, grouping representatives of the various concerned sectors, to discuss the drug problem and make proposals and recommendations on the best means for overcoming it, Salah said.

On the regional level, Salah pointed out, Jordan has contributed to preparing a pan-Arab strategy on fighting narcotics in 1986 and a unified Arab law on narcotics. At the international level, Jordan has participated in all international anti-drug efforts and is a signatory to the United Nations convention on controlling narcotic trafficking.

Salah said that though Jordan does not suffer from the misuse of narcotics, it is being used as a transit route for trafficking narcotics to consumers in the West.

Statistics have shown that 95 per cent of the quantities of narcotics seized in Jordan during the 1980s were destined to addicts in some neighbouring countries, Europe and North America, he said.

An international plan stressing regional and international coop-

eration in the fight against drug trafficking was put together by a special U.N. committee and was expected to be approved Friday by the 159 assembly members.

A draft of the plan urged countries plagued by drug trafficking to consider establishing joint border inspection checkpoints.

It also encouraged national drug enforcement agencies to work with Interpol, the international law enforcement organisation, to help authorities investigate drug-related activities and train personnel in countries facing mounting narcotics problems and related crimes.

The draft document stressed the need to prevent the banking system and other financial institutions from being used for laundering profits from the drug trade.

It said countries should "trace property and proceeds derived from drug-related activities through the international banking system, facilitate access to banking records and provide for the exchange of information between law enforcement, regulatory or investigative agencies concerning the financial flow of property or proceeds related to illicit drug trafficking."

The document also called for prompt eradication and substitution of crops that produce raw material for narcotics, such as coca plants used in making cocaine and opium poppies that yield heroin.

Measures to expand opportunities for trade and investment for countries where illegal drug production has led to severe economic problems should be high priorities, the document said.

The plan also called for steps to prevent covert transfers of arms and explosives to drug traffickers, and urged strict measures to prevent private aircraft and ships from being used in the illicit trade.

A senior U.S. administration official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said some of the measures were not as strong as American negotiators had hoped they would be.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

#### ACC railway network suggested

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The officials participating in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries railway meetings in Baghdad have recommended linking the ACC countries with a railway network that could expand to other countries. At the conclusion of meetings in Baghdad Friday, the officials recommended exchange of expertise in the field of railway maintenance. They also called for promoting cooperation in the field of rehabilitation and training railway employees.

#### Industrial delegation visits Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Amman Chamber of Industry, led by Khalidoun Abu Hassan, left for Baghdad Friday for talks with officials at the Iraqi Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on means of increasing scopes of cooperation between private sector institutions in the two countries. The delegation is also expected to discuss possibility of increasing Jordanian exports to Iraq and visit Iraqi industrial institutions.

#### 2 killed, 96 hurt on the road in 1 week

AMMAN (Petra) — Two people were killed and 96 others were injured as a result of 237 accidents which occurred in the Kingdom between Feb. 10 and 17, according to the traffic department. Most of the accidents took place in Amman (108), followed by Irbid (41), Zarqa (32) and Madaba. The department attributed the accidents to failure by drivers to adhere to traffic regulations.

#### Team in Tunis for TV, radio talks

TUNIS (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation representing the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production (JCTCRP) has arrived in Tunis to participate in meetings a committee of Arab officials and experts which will begin Saturday to television and radio production. The meetings are designed to launch an integral project on the production of a television series on Arab culture.

#### Jordan-Polish society elects officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Polish Friendship Association general assembly has held its annual meeting and elected a new administrative committee. The elected committee included Wasef Azar as president, Khaled Kana'an as vice president, Mamdouh Abbadi as secretary, Khaled Shraim as treasurer, and Khalidoun Abu Hassan, Tawfiq Kavar, Khader Fayyad, Makram Zreigat, and Ziyad Al Homsi as members.

#### Jerusalem, Bamako sign twinning pact

TUNIS (Petra) — Jerusalem Mayor Rawhi Al Khatib and the governor of Bamako, the capital of Mali, have signed a twinning agreement between the two cities. The signing ceremony, which took place in Bamako, was attended by the assistant secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities and the ambassador of the State of Palestine to Mali.

#### Migration seminar reviews research papers

IRBID (Petra) — Participants in a seminar held here on effects of emigration Friday discussed two research papers on the relation between war and emigration, presented by doctors from Birzeit and to Lebanese universities. On Thursday participants discussed four working papers presented by doctors from Yarmouk University, Khartoum University, Oxford University and the Cairo-based Bureau for Economic, Social and Legal Studies and Documentation.

#### Cairo to discuss ACC accords

CAIRO (Petra) — The Egyptian People's Assembly Saturday begins debate on cooperation agreements reached among the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries. These agreements cover manpower, sports, naval transport, ports, navigation, telecommunications, economy, trade, and drugs.

#### Snowfall in eastern parts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Snow fell in various parts of the eastern parts of the Kingdom from Thursday morning, reaching a height of 50 centimetres in the regions of Safawi, Rwaished, and Ashqar. This was caused by the wave of cold air which crossed Jordan coming from the Soviet Union and affected southeastern parts of the Kingdom, officials said. The Civil Defence Department and the Public Security Department, in cooperation with the Armed Forces, cleared roads for traffic. Snow also covered the regions of Mashaq, Anaza, and Shbeikah. Rain also fell in Irbid, Ajloun, Ramtha, Rwaished, Dail, Bakoura, and other regions. No accidents were reported in the eastern parts of the Kingdom.

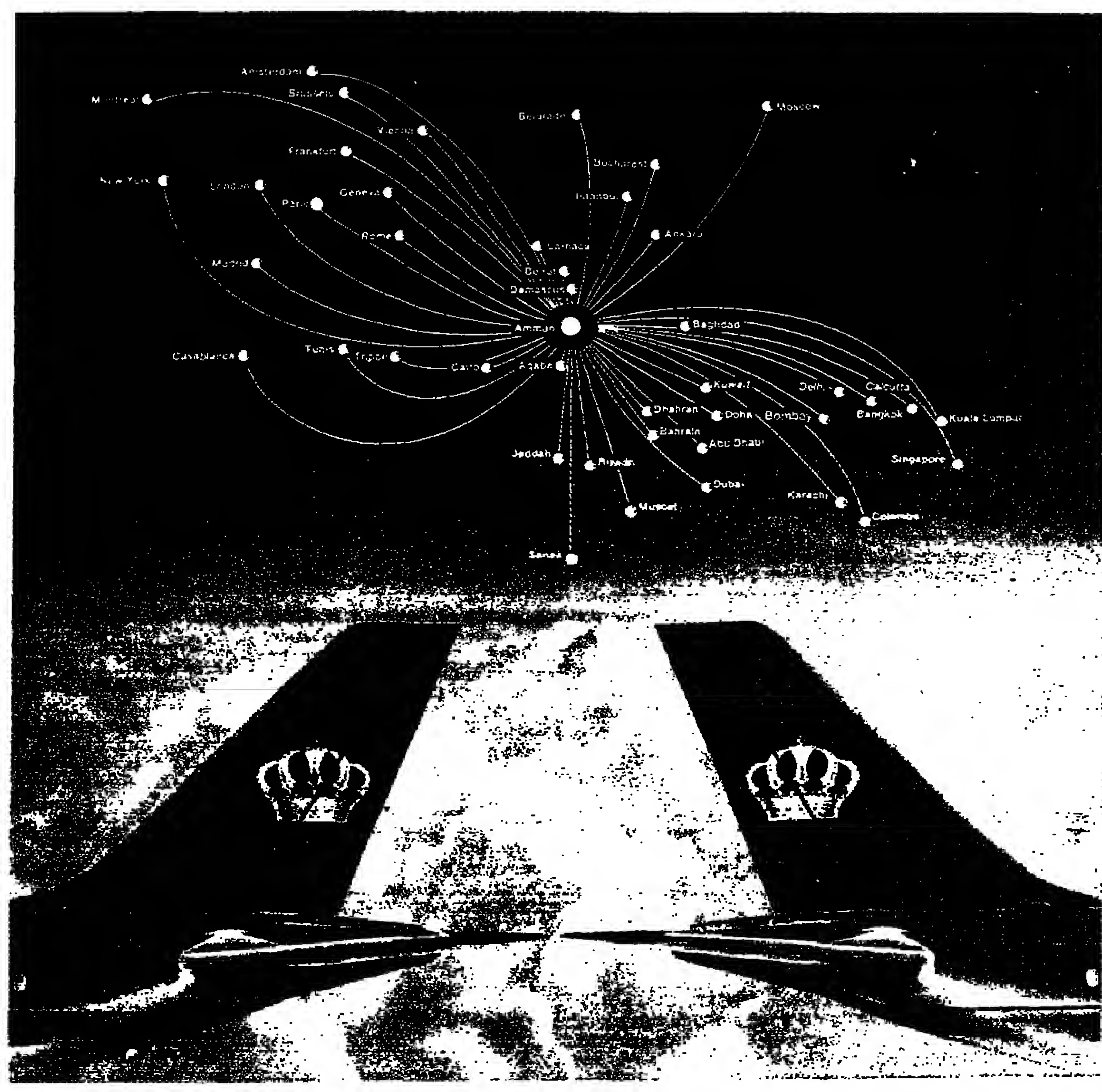
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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of paintings by Abla Ammours, Nahla Hilmi and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- \* An Iraqi book exhibition at the Ma'ta University.
- \* An exhibition entitled "Twenty years of French contribution to studying Syrian archaeology" at the Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology at Yarmouk University.
- \* An exhibition entitled "Models of the Jordanian plastic art" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- \* A photographic exhibition on the Soviet armed forces at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

### THEATRE

- \* A play entitled "Bottom of the Garden" (by the famous mime artist Nola Roe) at the University of Jordan — 4:00 p.m.

### FILM

- \* A German film entitled "Meier" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



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VIEW FROM AMMAN

# Mandela, South Africa and the future

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

TYRANTS, now and throughout history, never seem to learn that while you may put a man in jail, it is impossible to do so with an idea. Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa was unjustly put in jail for twenty seven years. His ideas were never incarcerated nor, for that matter, his proud spirit. Frederick William de Klerk, the product of the Afrikaaner's Boer tradition of apartheid and white supremacy finally saw the light and changed his mind. President de Klerk is now trying to establish a new system, for a new South Africa based on law rather than on repression. And, however, one may question his continued attachment to the system of separate — though — equal South Africa, one has to admit that the man has taken a step in the right direction. For while he is trying to kill and bury the past, with all its ugliness and injustice, he is yet uncertain as to what the future may bring.

This is where he needs the wise and courageous Mandela whose vision too, is of a great South Africa built not only upon law but justice as well. The release of Mandela is the release of a great energy that hopefully the whites of South Africa will cooperate with in forging a new partnership for the future. While the needs of the black majority must be addressed, the rights of the white minority should be guaranteed. Mr. de Klerk's so-called multi-racial state falls short of achieving the lawful equality and the justice that the blacks demand. And while this may be a starting point to be presented at the outset of negotiations with the blacks, it is hoped that it will not be the final word. Three points should be emphasised at this point. First that there is need for haste to keep the momentum of good will going. Both Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk face very strong opposition within their own communities. Should the momentum be halted both leaders stand

to lose, and their loss will be the loss of South Africa too. Both leaders face radical and fierce opposition within their ranks. Such opposition must not be given the chance, nor the time, to build its own rejectionist momentum. Second and in view of the situation, it is obvious that Mandela and de Klerk need each other. Thus far they seem to have built an atmosphere of mutual confidence and respect. Both are innovative, pragmatic and committed to South Africa. Third and final point is that the destructive capacity of both blacks and whites against each other is immense. Should the momentum, now built be allowed to slacken, the reservoir of hatred could lead to untold destruction.

And while Israel seems to be sliding back to lower levels of barbarity and violence, thus further isolating itself from its neighbourhood, indeed the civilised world, South Africa, which grew out of similar "missionary" ideology, has for the first time in its history, a chance of decent survival. Indeed it may, should it address itself to its problems with humanity, and a sense of the justice of the possible for all sides, "blaze another trek" that may, hopefully, be an example to Israel.

Mandela left his prison, but his spirit, the spirit of his people, indeed all South Africans, white or black, is still not free. The unjust jailor is as much in prison as the jailed. Mandela though a mere man, and though still alive, is already an idea, an idea that is part of the heritage of man everywhere. The children of Palestine, wielding stones and ancient slings know of Mandela and what he stands for. Perhaps his example, in cooperation with Mr. de Klerk, will help Israel in demolishing the wall of fear, the ghetto mentality it has built around itself. For in Palestine it is not only those in jail that are imprisoned, but an entire population that cannot breathe for one moment the breeze of freedom. Even

those who are not physically in jail are not free because the government, indeed the whole system is such a travesty of justice. The contrast between what is happening in Israel and South Africa is startling, for while de Klerk takes a bold step towards the future, Minister Sharon resigns his post because the government of Israel is not repressive and cruel enough, thus taking another step backward away from humanity.

In hailing his release, His Majesty King Hussein rightly called Mandela the "great warrior" whose dedication emphasised the inevitable "human triumph everywhere against the forces of evil, terror, and discrimination..." His years in jail, like the years in jail that the Palestinians are now suffering are indeed pages of pride and glory and a monument to human dignity.

It is hoped that the two men, Mandela and de Klerk each of whom took a grand step, though only a step towards the future will continue along the path of cooperation. De Klerk, who stunned white South Africa on Feb. 2, 1990 by lifting the 30-year ban on the activities of the African National Congress and who freed Mandela, needs the support of sanity that can only be given him by Mandela. De Klerk was right when he announced on the eve of Mandela's release that, "tomorrow will bring us to the end of a long chapter..." Professor John Barrett, political scientist and director of South Africa's Institute of International Affairs, was also right when he said, "much will depend on the part Mandela will play..." Hopefully the tune the two leaders will play will not be discordant. Until such time as their *indaba*, Zulu for negotiations, get meaningfully under way, the sanctions against apartheid South Africa should not be lifted. The sanctions may help both sides in mellowing the opposition to reform in their ranks.

## Summit with agenda

THE Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit convenes today in Amman amidst renewed hope and optimism that the Arab leaders will succeed in putting more flesh on the ACC skeleton. Granted the ACC is a very young Arab formation, having just celebrated its first anniversary. Yet the many challenges and dangers poised at the footsteps of the entire Arab Nation require that the pace of achievements be accelerated and consolidated. The positive mood in which the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan meet today gives us hope that the ACC will rise to these challenges and dangers confidently and boldly. Nevertheless, what remain to be done and accomplished by the ACC summit is indeed much and formidable. For instance, the foreign policies of the four ACC members, have yet to be fully synchronised and coordinated. The same could be said about their defences which have a long way to go before they are integrated as originally suggested and expected. As for our economies and fiscal policies, there is still an even longer road ahead before such pursuits and objectives are harmonised on a level commensurate with the high expectations generated by the creation of the ACC in the first place. The biggest challenge of all is the proposition the peoples of the ACC member countries have yet to feel that their countries have truly made sufficient progress on the way for greater Arab cohesion and harmony. What appears to be the biggest impediment in the path of greater degree of unity among the four is the same old traditional obstacle of absolute sovereignty that is still entertained by the Arab countries. There is no way the aspirations and goals of the ACC can be realised without sufficiently eroding this notion of orthodox Arab sovereignty to the level and degree necessary for creating a genuine nucleus for Arab unity. The Arab countries at large still act and pursue policies as if their peoples are alien to one another with no room left for Arab unity that used to echo ever so strongly in past times.

Thus the eyes of the Arab peoples of the four members of the ACC are focused more than ever on the Amman summit with increasing excitement and hopes. The Arab peoples share with their respective governments their anxieties and concerns about the new threats and challenges to the Arab Order and expect effective remedies to them in ways and means that they can be associated with and participate in. It is high time therefore for the ACC to reach out and acquire grassroots involvement and support, for without it there is not much hope in ivory tower pronouncements.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Israa Wal Mi'raj is a Muslim and Arab anniversary which this year is being observed as the world witnesses a new onslaught on their holy shrines in occupied Palestine, said Al Ra'i Friday. There is no point in remaining sad and living on the memories of Jerusalem and the holy places, as the need is great now for action and for unity among the Muslims and the Arab World to regain the usurped Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the occupied territories in Palestine, said the paper. There is no alternative for the Arab and Muslim people to unify and take serious action in the face of Israel and its allies and in the light of the continued usurpation of the Muslim shrines, the paper added. The Arab and Muslim nations which confide in their leaders hope that these leaders will shoulder their religious as well as their national responsibilities and save Arab and holy places. There is need to think with a new mentality and to chart new plans that can rise to the level of the challenge awaiting the Arab and Muslim people in Palestine, said the paper. It said that the Arabs should not suffice themselves with the lip service and the various statements issued by the European Community about the situation in the occupied Arab territories where the Jewish immigrants are being settled on Arab land. There is need for a new pan-Arab action and there is need for unity in the face of the looming danger, it said.

Al Dastour daily commented Friday on the four member Arab Cooperation Council's summit which will start in Amman Saturday. The paper said that Amman welcomes the King's guests following the elapse of one year since the creation of the ACC group which will pave the way for a pan-Arab unity. The past year witnessed serious efforts on the part of the four countries, represented in the numerous agreements drawn up to pave the way for full integration, the paper noted. It said the ACC leaders are now meeting amid serious challenges to their countries and the Arab World at large, and they are bound to take serious action to help their Arab masses deal with the danger inherent with the influx of Jewish settlers in Arab land. The paper said that the four leaders are meeting in Amman which overlooks Palestine where the Jews are being settled and the Arabs uprooted from their homes and lands. Perhaps they want to make a point of pledging to deal with this serious issue which threatens the future of the Arab Nation, the paper concluded.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily mocks Washington's statements which pretend to criticise Israel for abusing human rights and mistreating the Palestinians. The paper noted that the European Community, the United States State Department and the British government had all issued statements criticising Israel for its actions and for settling Jewish immigrants on Palestinian soil. But, it said, there is no meaning to any of these statements, first because Israel does not take them seriously or disregard them completely, and second because these statements could not be sincere since there is no action to back them on the part of the international community. The paper said as the condemnations and criticisms continue Israel continues to commit crimes and continues to disregard the world's public opinion in all forms.

## King voices concern

(Continued from page 1)  
President Hosni Mubarak on the fringes of the ACC summit in Amman.

On the democratic experiment in Jordan, the King said the proposed national charter would be based on respect for the constitution and in accordance with principles that guarantee the right of every Jordanian to participate in preparing it. He said a group of

politicians and intellectuals would be invited soon to be entrusted with the task of drafting the charter, which will be submitted to the public for a plebiscite.

The formation of political parties will be discussed by the government and parliament, the King said, reaffirming that political pluralism would be achieved in Jordan since "it is the essence of democracy."

## Hot issues

(Continued from page 1)  
chart a pan-Arab strategy to counter the Jewish migration to the occupied lands and to break the deadlock in Arab League-led moves to end the Lebanese strife, according to a senior Jordanian official.

However, prospects for convening the summit seem dim as long as Syria, which is deeply involved in the Lebanese imbroglio as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Iraq do not settle their differences. "It is a pity we cannot bring Syria and Iraq together, but without this reconciliation we should not expect quick solutions to our problems," the official told the Jordan Times.

Hopes that Syria could join the council and further strengthen the alliance suffered a setback last week when President Hussein demanded that President Hafez Al Assad withdraw Syrian forces from Lebanon and publicly apologise to the Arab World and Iraq for what Baghdad views as actions undermining Iraqi interests but also the interests of the Arab Nation. President Hussein set these demands as a condition for reconciliation between his country and Syria.

Expectations, based on signs in the Syrian media, were high earlier this week that Damascus was inclined towards reconciliation with Iraq. But the Iraqi position, contained in a 31-page message from President Hussein to the Jordanian Parliament in reply to an appeal to Damascus and Baghdad to settle their differences and form a joint front with Jordan against Israel, seemed to have dimmed these hopes, at least for now, the Arab officials said.

It is expected that President Mubarak will fly to Damascus

shortly after the ACC summit, but the officials do not expect any breakthrough in efforts to bring Syria and Iraq together. "As long they remain at odds," an Arab official said of Syria and Iraq, "it will be difficult to convene a summit. So the Iraqi-Syrian rift will also be on the ACC agenda."

"The (ACC) leaders will have to work very hard in order to narrow Arab differences," commented the Arab official. "Any concerted Arab action to counter the threat of Soviet Jewish immigration has to come through an Arab summit, and as long as Syria and Iraq remain at odds it will be a very difficult task to convene such a summit. Therefore, the first item on the agenda of the summit is how to mend the fences between Baghdad and Damascus," he added.

On the economic front, apart from formalising 16 agreements in various fields of cooperation, including trade, transport, tourism, economic and scientific expertise, the ACC leaders will also seek to further economic integration by signing another 11 accords. Work on fusing the four disparate economies, however, remains at an early stage.

The ACC was formed originally as an economic bloc seeking integration and eventually a common market but has turned into a grouping seeking to unify positions on the various political and economic issues facing the Arab World.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, however, has not ruled out discussions on military cooperation between the four countries. "The topic is not on the summit agenda, but the leaders can discuss any issue including military cooperation," Badran said earlier this week.

## Arafat approves

(Continued from page 1)

concluded Thursday. Rita Hauser, a New York peace activist who attended the conference, told reporters that the letter was received Thursday but that conference leaders had been unable to "get it fitted in" amid the conference's heavy schedule.

It was presented at a Friday board meeting of the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, which sponsored the conference.

Hauser, an attorney and head of the centre's American branch, met with Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988.

Shortly after their meeting, Arafat made a series of historic announcements recognising Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism. Those statements led, in turn, to the United States resuming contacts with the PLO for the first time since 1975.

Arafat's letter to the Jewish peace advocates was dated Feb. 17 and came from Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered. There was no explanation for the delay in its transmittal.

In the letter, Arafat repeated the PLO's call for creation of an independent Palestinian state in

the occupied territories. "We remain deeply convinced that the only real security guarantee for Israel lives in a peaceful settlement based on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories and the acceptance of the two-state principle," he wrote.

Arafat noted that Israel has been fearful of dealing with the PLO, and said that Palestinians had similar concerns about dealing with the Jewish state.

"Watching the convoluted manners the Israeli government has engaged in and the massive obstacles with which it has littered the path to peace, the Palestinian people are not filled with confidence in the good intentions of the Israeli leaders," Arafat wrote.

He continued: "To them, the only guarantee of their own security and their political future lies in the full participation of the PLO in all stages of the peace process."

Such a role has been ruled out by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. In an interview published Friday in the Jerusalem Post, Shamir was asked what the PLO could do to make itself an acceptable negotiating partner.

## ACC summit opens in Amman today

(Continued from page 1)

"the most dangerous and important threat faced by Arabs since the establishment of the state of Israel."

He stressed that the issue was "not only an ACC concern; it is a central concern for the Arab World as a whole."

Qasem said that Arab consultations on the issue should be at summit level, but any such gathering should be preceded by "practical and effective preparations."

The threats and dangers inherent in the Soviet Jewish influx to Palestine and the protection of Arab waters, according to Qasem, are two pressing concerns for the Arab World. He described the problems as "examples of the dangers of Arab disunity and schism."

"We should learn from the repercussions which we have seen and continue to see as a direct result of Arab disunity," Qasem said.

On reports that Jordan was reviving its efforts to settle the differences between Syria and Iraq in a bid to include the former in the ACC, Qasem said: "We have always tried, every time an Arab-Arab conflict surfaced, to settle such disputes on common grounds and we will continue to do so with a view to arriving at better inter-Arab relations."

He said that the issue of Arab waters had not yet received its due attention although it was "one of the most important and dangerous threats in the history of this region."

Israel has planned its expansionist policies in the Middle East based on its plans to control water ways in the area as well as ensure further water resources necessary for its continuation, he said.

"If we look at the 1956 (Suez) war we find that Israel entered that war to ensure its freedom of navigation," Qasem pointed out, adding that it was the usage of Arab waters that was behind Israel's continued presence in South Lebanon, although the threat of Palestinian military presence there has been eliminated.

In an obvious reference to the recent row between Turkey on the one hand and Iraq and Syria on the other over the one-month cut-down in the flow of the Euphrates River by Ankara, Qasem said that it was "necessary to establish a united Arab position which would guarantee these rights...the Nile, the Euphrates, we have basic rights in these waters."

Arab states have agreed in the past that any Arab financial assistance to any country which shares waters with any downstream Arab state should be linked to a guarantee that the aid recipient does not hamper the flow of water.

In answer to a question on the revival of the Eastern Front against Israel, Qasem said that the danger facing the Arab World "has no borders."

"It is not only Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq who are concerned," he said. "This is a comprehensive situation for all Arab states." He did not elaborate.

He said that it was necessary to form an Arab position which would block any opportunity for Israel "to evade the embarrassing situation it is facing now and posed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when the (PLO) took a steadfast position to end the Arab-Israeli conflict."

In answer to a question on Jordan's position towards Egypt-

tian efforts to open an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue based on American Secretary of State James Baker's proposal, Qasem said: "Since 1967 and since both Jordan and Egypt agreed to abide by U.N. Resolution 242 there has been a clear intention to establish a durable and comprehensive peace in the area through an international peace conference which would bring together all parties to the conflict."

Qasem said that any effort which would lead to holding an international conference, including an Egyptian-mediated Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, "is not contradictory to our continued position of peace built on international legitimacy which would guarantee Palestinian human and legal rights."

The foreign minister told reporters that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "has on more than one occasion stressed his commitment to the joint Arab defence pact if Israel tried to invade or attack an Arab country."

Qasem made an unprecedented attack on Israeli claims that Jordan is Palestine. "The truth that Israel has to understand is that Israel is Palestine."

Qasem said.

## ACC agenda

(Continued from page 1)

International Airport, the visiting leaders were driven in motorcades to the Royal Palace. Later in the day, the King visited them and the leaders paid courtesy calls on each other.

The ACC summit is scheduled to open at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday morning, with the King assuming the one-year rotating chairmanship of the council from President Hussein.

The ministerial committee of the four countries held a meeting here Friday evening attended by Prime Minister Badran, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and North Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani.

The meeting endorsed the agenda for the summit, but no specific details were available.

## Baker asks Israel to stop haggling

(Continued from page 1)

we've been working on over the past months and we're not going to get into the detail of that... except to say that this meeting was very constructive and hopefully will prove to be very productive," he added.

On Thursday, Baker told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that the time for action had come in the Middle East after months of slow-moving negotiations.

"We really need now to start. We need action. We've done a lot of talking," he said.

Shamir told Bush there was no government policy directing Soviet emigres to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Shamir made the denial in a morning telephone call to Bush. In a written statement issued in Baltimore, where Bush was delivering a speech at Johns Hopkins University, Fitzwater said Bush repeated U.S. opposition to any settlement activity on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Appearing before the House committee on Thursday, Baker accepted one Congressman's assessment that more than 99 per cent of the Soviet emigres arriving in Israel were not being settled in the territories, and he acknowledged that the efforts of Arab governments had been important in developing Soviet opposition to the direct flights.

"I really do think," the secretary continued, "that there is some concern that ultimately there may be settlement in the territories. And that's why a clear and definitive policy approach that makes it abundantly clear that there are not going to be settlements" would be helpful, he said.

To say there would be no more settlements would be the best approach, he said, adding that a statement declaring "that these people will not be settled in the occupied territories, I really think would go a long way toward helping us cure the problem."

Defying Arab opposition and U.S. criticism, the Jewish settlement of Ariel in the occupied West Bank announced Friday it was expanding to accommodate more Soviet immigrants.

Ariel's mayor, Ron Nachman, told Reuters he had government permission to expand his settlement of 8,000 and expected to absorb some 400 Soviet and East European immigrants in 1990. "I am looking to build a big, big, major town for the region... it is the responsibility of the government of Israel and the Jewish people abroad to build as many apartments as possible to absorb all these Soviet Jews," he said.

A partial lifting of Soviet travel restrictions by President Mikhail Gorbachev has allowed a Jewish exodus and at least 160 Soviets have settled in Ariel in the past five months, joining 600 who arrived during the 1970s.

Nachman said housing for the immigrants was rapidly running out and mobile homes were being readied for the overflow until 250 new apartments were built.

Israeli officials expect 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet immigrants this year but say only a small proportion will settle in the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip.

The United States has said the immigrants should not settle in occupied territory and has described as unhelpful remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate the newcomers. Scores have moved into other

settlements, including Maaleh Adumim, near Jerusalem, where 30 Soviet Jews settle each month.

## PLO position

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remains committed to peace despite Soviet Jewish settlement in the occupied lands, a PLO spokesman said Thursday, backing down from a threat to revert to militancy.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told reporters, "The PLO is and will remain committed to the cause of peace in the Middle East because peace is our choice, our only choice."

On Wednesday Abu Sharif said the influx of Soviet Jews was an act of war which could undermine the PLO's commitment to peace through diplomacy.

"If no practical steps are taken by the superpowers, we will have to think of ways and means of defending our land... we are threatening to end everything. We are not prepared to be bluffed any more," he said.

On Thursday, he again described the settlements as an act of war and said Palestinians would continue to resist the Israeli occupation until the West Bank and Gaza were free.

Asked if the PLO peace initiative was under threat, he said, "It is the Israeli government which is threatening the peace process in the Middle East by such acts (as settling Soviet Jews) and by organised terrorism against Palestinians."

A Soviet diplomat in Paris meanwhile denied reports that Soviet embassies in Europe and the Middle East were on alert because of threats made by Palestinian extremists angry over

the migration. "The embassy isn't on alert and I don't believe there's any threat to our diplomats," said First Secretary Dimitri Youndine.

"It's important to realise that the problem is not Jews going to Israel, but that Israel adhere to international accords prohibiting settlement in the occupied territories," he said.

## Qadhafi blames U.S.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi accused the United States of facilitating and financing the resettling of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, daily Al Ahran newspaper reported Friday.

"The United States is responsible in the first degree for this immigration and not the Soviet Union," Qadhafi said in an interview with Al Ahran. It was conducted in the southern Egyptian resort Aswan last Sunday.

"The emigration (of Soviet Jews) was a prime condition the United States put to the Soviet Union in return for improved relations..."

"It is American money which encourages the migrants to buy Arab territories and settle in them. The Soviet Union only give them money which enables them to live and settle in Arab territories. It is billions of American dollars that does that," Qadhafi added.

He did not specify whether he believed the United States gave money directly to the Soviet Jews or whether it reached them indirectly through U.S. financial aid given to Israel.

Qadhafi said that he considered Israel itself as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be occupied Arab territories.



Du scandale financier à la crise sociale

# La banque Petra dans la tourmente

Sérieusement ébranlée par le scandale financier qui a éclaté en août dernier, la banque Petra se retrouve aujourd'hui aux prises avec ses employés. Depuis mardi, la majorité des 675 salariés de l'entreprise sont en grève, à l'appel du syndicat des

banques. Ils réclament notamment des augmentations de salaires, l'instauration d'une grille d'avancement et de meilleures conditions de travail. Le comité de direction, nommé il y a sept mois par le gouvernement, estime avoir déjà fait son possible.

De mémoire de banquier jordanien, on n'avait jamais vu ça. Depuis mardi, une écrasante majorité des 675 employés du siège et des 25 succursales nationales de la banque Petra sont en grève, à l'appel de l'Association nationale des salariés du secteur bancaire et des assurances (JIBEA). "C'est la première fois qu'un mouvement social de cette ampleur se produise dans cette profession", assure Yousef Hourani, membre du bureau de la JIBEA.

Les raisons d'une telle colère? Les conditions de travail, et en premier lieu les salaires. "Voilà 5 ans que nous n'avons pas vu l'ombre d'une augmentation sur les feuilles de paie", explique l'un des grévistes, qui, à l'instar de 300 à 400 de ses collègues, est venu manifester mardi et mercredi matin devant le siège de la société financière, à Wadi Sagra. Les revendications se sont élargies pas la suite: "nous voulons aussi que la Petra instaure une grille d'avancement. Figurez-vous que dans cette banque, vous pouvez trouver deux employés, qui avec les mêmes diplômes, la même ancienneté et des postes équivalents touchent l'un, moins de 100 dinars, et l'autre, plus de 300", affirme Yousef Hourani. La déléguation syndicale chargée de négocier avec la direction, et dont il fait partie, exige également que soit instauré un "code moral" pour le respect des salariés et une véritable "inspection du travail" pour éviter les licenciements abusifs.

De côté patronal, on se déclare "étonné" de l'attitude de la JIBEA.

S'exprimant au cours d'une conférence de presse mardi soir au siège de la Petra, le président du comité de direction, Walid Asfour, a indiqué avoir "envoyé une délégation de grévistes à rejoindre la table des négociations", le jour même. "Nous sommes surpris que le syndicat ait choisi de violer le code du travail en appelant à la grève sans préavis de 14 jours, comme l'exige la loi".

Pour M. Asfour, la direction "a fait tout ce qu'elle pouvait". Selon lui, des augmentations de salaires de 1% à 15% ont notamment été proposées dès dimanche, à l'occasion d'une réunion du comité avec le premier ministre, Moubarak Badran. "234 employés, qui touchent moins de 100 dinars se sont vu proposer 15 dinars de plus par mois. Nous avons également mis au point une grille, ce qui n'existait pas sous l'ancienne direction". Concrètement, cela coûterait 700 000 dinars à la Petra, a-t-il souligné, en estimant "irréalisable" le million exigé par la JIBEA.

Mardi soir, direction et syndicat campaient toujours fermement sur leurs positions. "Nous continuerons la grève jusqu'à ce que toutes nos revendications soient satisfaites", a notamment affirmé mardi le président de la JIBEA, Halder Rashid. "La Petra a reçu de l'argent de la Banque centrale. Elle peut payer", rétorque Yousef Hourani.

En fait, rien n'est moins sûr. Ébranlée il y a dix ans par l'un des scandales financiers les plus retentissants du royaume, l'ancienne banque

de l'Almoud Chahab, actuellement en faillite, se trouve plutôt au point. L'installation, le 3 août dernier par le gouvernement, d'un nouveau directeur n'a manifestement pas permis d'assainir la situation de l'ancien fleuron de la finance jordanienne. Le 15 février, le nouveau directeur général de la Petra, Bassam Attari, reconnaissait d'ailleurs dans les colonnes du "Star" que la dette de la société s'élevait à quelque 250 millions de dinars.

possible de rééchelonner les dettes de l'établissement à l'égard des banques étrangères "avant la fin de l'année".

Scénario peu probable, commente-t-on dans les milieux économiques à Amman. "La Petra a emprunté à court terme et on voit mal comment les créanciers accepteraient d'attendre 10 ans ou 15 ans avant d'être remboursés, comme le souhaite M. Attari. Les banques étrangères pourraient même s'associer pour faire pression sur la Petra", souligne un expert occidental, qui s'inquiète par ailleurs du retard pris par la société dans la publication de son état de santé. "Le cabinet d'audit américain Arthur Andersen a refusé son travail en août. Les conclusions du rapport devaient être annoncées initialement en novembre. Puis, on nous a dit décembre, janvier..."

Bassam Attari l'a promis "dans moins d'un mois". Un mois, qui s'annonce chaud pour la Petra. Ses salariés, décidés à aller jusqu'au bout, exigent désormais la démission du directeur nommé par le gouvernement, pour "incompétence". Les autorités, elles, se retrouvent face à l'une des crises sociales les plus sérieuses depuis 10 ans et vivent dans la crainte que le rapport d'audit révèle que la Petra n'est plus qu'une coquille vide.

Alain Renon.

Fièvre syndicale dans les universités

Vers des fédérations étudiantes

Le processus de démocratisation, qui s'est enclenché dans le royaume avec les élections de novembre dernier, s'étend aujourd'hui au monde universitaire. Les étudiants s'efforcent actuellement de mettre sur pied des fédérations à "caractère politique".

L'université de Jordanie d'Amman, la plus ancienne et la plus importante du pays avec ses 18 000 étudiants, est actuellement le théâtre d'une activité fébrile, marquée par d'intenses concertations. Objectif: ressusciter la vie syndicale à la faculté.

Mardi 14 février notamment, un meeting sur ce thème a rassemblé 2 500 étudiants. Discussions, débats, et propositions se déroulent en coordination avec le doyen des affaires étudiantes de l'université, Yousef Siam. Elle porte, indique ce dernier, sur la "formation d'une commission préparatoire, chargée de jeter les bases" d'une fédération des étudiants jordanien.

Le souhait des étudiants n'est pas de céder, à proprement parler, une nouvelle organisation. Il s'agit en fait d'obtenir la "réactivation de l'Union générale des étudiants de l'université de Jordanie (UGUEJ)", fondée en 1972 et suspendue deux ans plus tard, pour avoir outrepassé les limites de ses prérogatives, telles qu'elles étaient définies dans ses statuts", précise Yousef Siam.

Celui-ci entendait notamment à l'UGUEJ "avoir des orientations politiques, religieuses ou régionales". Dissoute, l'Union générale avait été

remplacée par 34 associations aux activités purement culturelles, représentant les 13 départements de l'université.

Un certain nombre d'étudiants réclament cependant pour la future fédération la possibilité de représenter les "orientations politiques" et les courants, qui existent à la faculté. Selon eux, ils ne sont que le reflet des tendances qui composent le paysage politique de la société jordanienne.

Même s'il estime qu'il faudra pour cela une "approbation officielle" des autorités, M. Siam souligne que l'université admet actuellement la tenue dans son enceinte de colloques et de conférences sur des thèmes politiques. Elle prend ainsi en considération les "aspirations des étudiants et le climat d'ouverture" qui prévaut en ce moment dans le pays, bien que son règlement interdise de telles activités", ajoute-t-il.

Pour l'heure, les étudiants d'une seule des trois autres universités du royaume, celle du Yarmouk, semblent ébranlés par le pas à Amman. Ils réclament eux aussi la formation d'une fédération "véritablement représentative".

Saad Hattar.

## Un ordre du jour chargé

Le quatrième sommet des chefs d'Etats du Conseil de coopération arabe s'ouvre aujourd'hui à Amman. Les entretiens, qui doivent durer deux jours, entre le pouvoir hachémite et les présidents égyptien, irakien et nord-yéménite porteront essentiellement sur l'immigration des réfugiés syro-palestiniens en Israël et la coopération militaire arabe.

Le roi Hussein et les présidents Hosni Moubarak, Saddam Hussein et Abdallah Saleh ont du pain sur la planche. A l'ordre du jour de leur quatrième rencontre depuis la création du Conseil de coopération arabe en février 1989, figurent en effet bon nombre de dossiers. Et de dossiers brûlants.

Ainsi du problème de l'immigration massive des réfugiés syro-palestiniens à destination d'Israël, qui occupera aujourd'hui et demain le devant de la scène. Les "Quatre" considèrent en effet, à l'instar des autres pays arabes, que cet événement constitue la menace la plus sérieuse contre le règlement global du conflit arabo-palestiniens. Et ce, malgré le refus répété de Moscou d'autoriser des vols directs vers l'Etat hébreu et les avertissements adressés à Tel Aviv par la communauté internationale contre toute implantation des nouveaux arrivants dans les territoires occupés.

La coopération militaire entre pays de la Ligue, qui figure elle aussi en bonne place au menu des travaux du sommet, prend un relief particulier dans ce contexte de regain de tension. D'autant plus que le premier ministre jordanien n'a pas exclu cette semaine que la proposition faite en mai 1988 par le roi Hussein de créer un régiment inter-arabe soit évoquée ce week-end. Bien que Moubarak Badran ait minimisé la portée de la création, il y a une semaine, d'une "escalade aérienne nationale" jordanienne-irakienne, nombre d'observateurs se demandent s'il ne s'agit pas d'ores et déjà d'un premier pas dans cette direction.

Autres sujets épineux dont s'entreveront les responsables du CCA: les changements intervenus en Europe de l'Est, et le plan de paix proposé par l'Irak à l'Iran le 5 janvier. Ces deux derniers dossiers se révéleront primordiaux pour les "Quatre", et notamment pour la Jordanie, qui appelle avec de plus en plus d'insistance à un rapprochement syro-irakien. Amman tentera sans doute de faire progresser l'idée d'une nécessaire entente entre Damas et Bagdad. Un processus dans lequel le président égyptien aura sans doute un rôle clé à jouer. Hosni Moubarak pourrait en effet s'envoler dimanche soir pour Damas, à l'issue du sommet. (D'après agences).

## Toujane Fayçal non coupable

Accusée à deux reprises d'apostasie par des fondamentalistes musulmans, la productrice de télévision et journaliste jordanienne Toujane Fayçal a définitivement obtenu gain de cause mercredi devant la cour d'appel islamique d'Amman.

"La cour a décidé de rejeter la plainte portée contre Toujane Fayçal. La petite phrase est tombée au terme d'un verdict, dont la lecture a duré plus d'une demi-heure mercredi matin dans les locaux de la cour islamique d'Amman, à Djebel Hussein. Une petite phrase, qui met fin à près de quatre mois d'affaire Toujane Fayçal."

Tout avait commencé fin octobre, en pleine campagne officielle pour les élections législatives. Deux musulmans fondamentalistes, dont le mufti en second des Forces armées, avaient accusé Mme Fayçal d'apostasie, autrement dit du crime le plus grave contre l'islam. Les deux hommes estimaient en effet que la candidate au siège circonscription de la 5e circonscription d'Amman avait "blasphémé le Prophète et remis sa religion dans un article paru le 21 septembre dans le quotidien "Al-Rai".

Comme pour ses positions courageuses en faveur des droits de la femme dans l'islam, la productrice de télé et journaliste jordanienne avait alors qualifié ces attaques de "purement politiques et dirigées contre les forces progressistes engagées dans la campagne électorale". Les "plaignants", quant à eux, avaient porté l'affaire devant la cour islamique, réclamant entre autres le divorce de Toujane Fayçal, la confiscation de ses biens et la garantie d'immunité à quiconque assassinerait l'accusée.

La violence de ces propos et les

manifestations d'indignation de nombreuses personnalités du royaume, avaient obligé les autorités à sortir de leur réserve. Quelques jours avant les élections du 8 novembre, la cour déclarait "incompétente". Peu de temps après, la plainte était retirée.

Il y a près de deux semaines, l'avocat des deux hommes, Abdullah Shamaileh, revenait à la charge au nom de "l'intérêt public" et demandait, cette fois, à la cour d'appel islamique, de reprendre le dossier. Ce qu'elle a accepté. "Cela veut dire que la décision de mercredi est définitive", souligne, satisfait, Munzir H. Hammo, l'avocat de la défense.

De fait, le président au tribunal, Cheikh Saleh Al-Mubtasib, a rappelé dans son verdict que l'affaire avait été "jugée sur le fond" et que Toujane Fayçal était une vraie musulmane. Le juge islamique a fait la même remarque au sujet du frère de cette dernière, également accusé d'apostasie par Abdullah Shamaileh.

Celui-ci a estimé que le tribunal ne l'avait "pas écoutée" et promis de revenir à la charge. Quant à Toujane Fayçal, elle s'est "réjouie" de ce verdict mais en soulignant qu'il s'agissait "essentiellement et malheureusement d'une seule bataille gagnée". Elle a enfin indiqué qu'elle porterait plainte "pour diffamation" contre l'avocat fondamentaliste.

A.R.

## EN BREF

**Manifestation.** Les épouses de 35 détenus dans les prisons jordaniennes ont organisé mardi un sit-in devant le Parlement et la présidence du Conseil à Amman pour réclamer leur libération. Plusieurs manifestantes ont affirmé que leurs époux sont "des prisonniers politiques, qui n'ont pas bénéficié des deux dernières amnisties" du 10 décembre et 16 janvier derniers. Le ministre de l'Intérieur a rejeté cette demande en indiquant qu'il s'agissait de prisonniers de droit commun, condamnés pour crimes, usage d'explosifs et trafic de drogue.

**OLP.** Le bureau politique du Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine (FDLP) de Nayef Hawatmeh, l'un des trois principaux composantes de l'OLP, a annoncé jeudi depuis Damas que la centrale palestinienne était disposée à entamer un dialogue avec Israël. Le FDLP soulignait que ces négociations doivent s'ouvrir sur la base des cinq points adoptés par le Conseil central de l'OLP (CCOLP) en octobre à Bagdad, parmi lesquels la représentativité exclusive de l'organisation et son droit de nommer les personnalités de la délégation palestinienne dans le cadre d'un dialogue qui "soit une démarche préliminaire à la tenue d'une conférence internationale de paix".

**ONU-drogue.** Les 159 Etats membres de l'ONU, réunis à New York à l'occasion d'une session spéciale consacrée à la drogue, ont adopté hier par consensus une série de 90 mesures proposées par les Nations-Unies pour lutter contre les ravages du trafic de stupéfiants. Ce "programme d'action mondial" s'articule autour de huit grands chapitres, qui vont de la lutte contre "l'argent sale" par le renforcement des systèmes judiciaires et juridiques au traitement et à la réadaptation des drogués. L'ONU s'est également engagée à fournir à tous les Etats "des cours sur la prévention de la toxicomanie, qui seront incorporés dans tous les programmes de tous les établissements d'enseignement". Dans sa "déclaration politique", l'organisation a par ailleurs décidé de faire de la période 1991-2000, la "décennie des Nations-Unies contre l'abus des drogues".

**Apartheid.** La majorité des douze pays de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) a refusé mardi à Dublin de lever les sanctions économiques, adoptées en 1986 à l'encontre de l'Afrique du Sud. A l'exception du ministre britannique des Affaires étrangères, soutenu par son homologue portugais, les chefs de diplomatie des pays de la CEE ont en effet estimé encore insuffisantes les mesures de libéralisation (libération de Mandela et libération de l'ANC) récemment prises par Pretoria. Les Douze ont cependant décidé d'envoyer sur place dans les prochains semaines les ministres irlandais, français et italiens des Affaires étrangères (ou leurs représentants) afin de "promouvoir un dialogue" en vue notamment de la levée de l'état d'urgence et de libération de tous les prisonniers politiques sud-africains.

**Nucléaire.** François Mitterrand s'est engagé solennellement mercredi à autoriser la vente d'une centrale nucléaire au Pakistan, malgré les critiques de l'Inde et des Etats-Unis. Le président français a fait cette offre dans une conférence de presse commune avec le premier ministre pakistanais Benazir Bhutto, à l'occasion de sa visite officielle dans ce pays. M. Mitterrand s'est ensuite envolé vers le Bangladesh, où il a effectué un voyage de trois jours. Premier chef d'Etat d'une grande puissance occidentale à effectuer une telle démarche, le président français devait notamment annoncer hier le montant de l'aide financière que Paris compte fournir au Bangladesh pour lutter contre les inondations meurtrières, qui endeuillent chaque année la région.

**French connection.** La police française a annoncé mercredi qu'elle venait, au terme de cinq ans d'enquête, de démanteler un "important" réseau de trafic d'héroïne entre les Etats-Unis et la France, dirigé par d'anciens cadres de la "French connection", surmonté d'une débauche de trafiquants des années 1960. Dix-huit personnes de nationalité française ont été inculpées et emprisonnées. Ce réseau a écoulé 260 kilos d'héroïne en provenance de Thaïlande sur le marché américain et une trentaine sur le marché français. Son "nouveau", selon les enquêteurs, était William Perrin, déjà condamné en France en 1972 pour trafic de drogue à une peine de 9 ans de prison.

**France-Tchad.** Le dispositif militaire français "Epervier", déployé au Tchad en 1986 pour contrer les offensives libyennes dans le nord du pays, est allégé de pratiquement moitié en hommes, a annoncé Paris mercredi. Déjà ramenée de 1 500 à 1 000 soldats après la signature d'un accord tchado-libyen en août dernier, la présence militaire française dans ce pays d'Afrique Noire devrait passer à 800 hommes avant le mois de juillet.

**Inflation.** Le coût de la vie a augmenté de 0,5% en moyenne dans les douze pays de la Communauté économique européenne au mois de janvier, par rapport à décembre, a annoncé hier à Luxembourg l'Office européen de statistiques. En un an, ajoute l'étude d'Eurostat, le taux d'inflation a atteint 5,2%. Le Portugal affiche la plus forte progression pour janvier (1,7%), due principalement aux augmentations de prix dans les transports et les télécommunications. En France, le taux d'inflation a atteint 3,5% le mois dernier, soit une progression de 0,4%.

**Côte.** Le chef de l'Etat français serait élu président de la CEE par 72% de ses compatriotes, mais aussi par 36% des Allemands de l'Ouest, devant le chancelier Helmut Kohl (34%), révèle un sondage publié cette semaine par le magazine économique "L'Expansion". Toujours selon cette enquête, effectuée auprès de deux échantillons représentatifs de 1 000 personnes en France et en RFA, 96% des Allemands jugent que la réunification des deux Allemagnes serait une bonne chose. 73% des Français partagent cet avis.

**Albatros.** Le plus grand des oiseaux de mer, autrement dit l'albatros, peut effectuer jusqu'à 15 000 km pour trouver sa nourriture et voler pendant une journée sur une distance de 900 km à près de 80 km/h, indique une étude publiée jeudi par la revue britannique "Nature". Ces chiffres surprenants ont été annoncés par une équipe de chercheurs français, qui a enregistré les déplacements d'albatros dans l'Océan indien grâce à de petits émetteurs radio fixés sur les oiseaux et dont le signal a été suivi par satellite. L'enquête révèle également que ce palméaire, dont l'envolage d'hiver peut dépasser les trois mètres, est capable de voler toute une nuit en ne se reposant qu'une heure.

**Miracle.** Deux jeunes Antillais de l'île de la Trinité, désireux d'émigrer au Canada, ont miraculeusement été retrouvés sains et saufs mardi à Toronto, après avoir passé plus de cinq heures... dans l'un des trains d'atterrissage d'un avion de ligne. Le chimiste et le pantalon d'été, les deux hommes, âgés de 19 et 26 ans, ont survécu au froid et à l'asphyxie, alors que l'appareil volait à 10 000 mètres d'altitude par des températures de moins quarante degrés Celsius. D'après les autorités canadiennes, ils n'ont pu s'en sortir qu'en brisant une paroi de fibre de verre pour accéder à un minuscule espace à l'intérieur du fuselage.

## A L'AFFICHE

**CINEMA**

Mélier, de Peter Timm, avec Rainer Gries, Ewald, Najda, Ewald et Thomas. (1984). Les tribulations d'un imprimeur allemand, Edouard Mélier, qui n'a qu'un désir: offrir un tour du monde en capitaliste. Le jour où il hérite, il se débrouille pour faire de son rêve une réalité. Institut Goethe, samedi 24 février à 20h00.

**Festival Denez.** Le centre culturel français propose jusqu'à la fin du mois une série de films, dont Catherine Deneuve est l'actrice principale. Cette semaine:

Un Flic, de Jean-Pierre Melville, avec Alain Delon (1972). Lequel des deux trucs aime une jeune femme aura-t-elle le plus beau?

Centre culturel français, lundi 26 février à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

**Salon**

Un Flic, de Jean-Pierre Melville, avec Alain Delon (1972). Lequel des deux trucs aime une jeune femme aura-t-elle le plus beau?

Centre culturel français, lundi 26 février à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

**Exposition**

Peinture. "Du réalisme à l'abstrait", exposition consacrée aux peintres Ali al-Shami Amourah, Nabila Hmidi et Nawal al-Abdallah. Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shamsa, jusqu'au 28 février. Tous les jours de 10h00 à 17h00, sauf le vendredi. Tél: 679166.

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## Egyptian premier describes changes in Europe as lesson to Arab World

CAIRO (R) — Political and economic changes sweeping Europe showed the Arab World that political progress could only come through economic integration, Egypt's Prime Minister Atef Sedki has told Arab finance ministers.

"We must realise that if economic integration between Arab states does not take place, I doubt very much that progress on political issues can be achieved," Sedki said.

He was addressing ministers and delegates from 22 Arab League members who gathered in Cairo for the day to discuss the effects of the recent political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the emergence in 1992 of an integrated European Community (EC) market.

"What will the Arab nation's position be. Will it benefit from the changes? I doubt it. Will it be harmed? Most probably," Sedki said in what analysts called one of his frankest speeches.

The ministers met at Cairo's Nile-side Arab League building for the first time in more than a decade. The league moved its headquarters to Tunis to protest at Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Sedki said it was unfortunate that trade between Arab states in 1987 reached only \$6.6 billion compared with \$96 billion with the rest of the world.

"We should question, is this the state on which Arab economic integration will be based?" Sedki asked.

"If Arab economic integration

was a necessity in the past, today it is a challenge in the light of international changes ... and all studies show it is possible," he emphasised.

He urged further contact and economic coordination between Arab states, increasing the Arab World's industrial and agricultural production and upgrading the Arab workforce.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, in a speech read by his assistant Asaad Al Assad, said Arabs had to review their strategies and economic policies as the world was on the threshold of new political and social structures.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi told reporters that although Arabs may wish for an Arab common

market, they had to realise that it was not yet possible.

Economic groupings within the Arab World faced different circumstances and studies still had to be made on how to coordinate their policies and unite their stands.

"Frankly, our regional gatherings have not yet been able to coordinate between each other," Khorafi said.

He was referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen are linked in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) while the Maghreb Union consists of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya.

## China expects more austerity ahead

BEIJING (R) — China's economic growth slowed dramatically in 1989 after being cramped by a tough austerity campaign, a government spokesman has said while predicting more sluggishness this year.

Figures revealed a decline in employment in rural industry and the private sector, once the most dynamic areas of the economy but now targets of orthodox Mar-

xists who seized control of the ruling Communist Party last June.

Zhang Zhongji, spokesman of the State Statistical Bureau, said gross national product, the value of all goods and services, rose only 3.9 per cent last year after an 11.2 per cent expansion in 1988. Industrial output climbed 8.3 per cent, but that was far below the 20.8 per cent rise of 1988.

China clamped tight controls on credit in September, 1988, to check then-raging inflation. It brought inflation down to 17.8 per cent for all of 1989 from a peak of 27.9 per cent reached last February, but it sent the economy into a tailspin.

"Industry will continue to grow slowly in the first half of this year," Zhang said. "1990 is a key year in the austerity programme. We must make sure that we do not blindly loosen controls on credit to resolve problems ahead of us."

Initial figures for January already showed a steep decline in industrial output and many of the nation's factories have been forced to close or pay workers only a fraction of their wages.

Unemployment was officially put at four million people, or 2.7 per cent of the workforce, but Western economists said that was far below the real figure.

"This is only the number of people who have gone through official channels to find new jobs," said an economist.

"There are many people who lost jobs in the cities and were

sent home to the countryside," he said. "We don't know what has really happened to many of these people."

The hardline Marxists who ousted reform communist Zhao Ziyang as party chief in June have portrayed private businessmen as tax cheats, and set heavy new levies on them.

They have channelled available credit to their ideological allies, the creaking inefficient state sector, while choking off credit to the private sector and rural industry.

As a result, employment in once thriving private industry fell to 19 million, down three million from a year ago, while rural industry also lost three million jobs, now employing 92 million people.

The spokesman warned that China had still not resolved many of its key economic problems, such as low productivity throughout industry.

"Many of the measures we have taken to restore the economy have not tackled the root of the problem," he said. "The task ahead is extremely difficult."

## Tunisia to organise trade with Libya

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia is clamping down on the thriving trade in goods imported from Libya free of customs duty and at black-market currency rates, government officials said.

They said that from this week merchants at the "Libya Market" in the southern city of Sfax, the main entrepot for such goods, would have to produce receipts showing how much the goods cost and proving they have paid duty where necessary.

In theory only goods produced in Libya with 40 per cent local input are exempt from duty. In practice traders have been importing into Tunisia a wide range of non-Libyan products.

The most popular lines are rice, soap, cheese, coffee and cooking oil, some of which are subsidised in Libya.

Prices are much lower than for legally imported goods because the merchants buy their Libyan dinars at about one-third of the official rate.

Libyan dislike the trade because it has led to shortages on the domestic market and because the Libyan treasury ends up subsidising Tunisian consumers. Tunisian producers have also complained of unfair competition, especially in textiles.

Several hundred merchants protested against the new measures in Sfax last week.

They said the measures would wipe out their trade altogether and leave 1,500 families destitute.

In Tunis, an economy ministry official said, "we had closed our eyes to this parallel market but it's led to a real mess. So we had to introduce a little order."

## Nikkei nosedives below 35,000 level

TOKYO (AP) — Fears of higher interest rates and jitters over recent bearish market sentiment sent the main index on the Tokyo stock exchange plunging again Friday, while the U.S. dollar rose sharply against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, which Wednesday lost 1,161.19 points, or 3.15 per cent, in its third-largest loss ever, fell another 935.87 points, or 2.61 per cent, closing at 34,890.97.

Friday's drop, the index's fifth largest, pulled the market's leading indicator down to a four-month low. It was the first time the index has fallen below the 35,000-point level since Oct. 17, 1989.

The Nikkei index now has dropped 2,569.35 points, or 6.86 per cent, this week and 4,024.9 points, or 10.34 per cent, since the beginning of the year.

Analysts and dealers attributed the continuing bearishness of the world's highest-valued stock exchange to participants' fear of an interest rate hike and a wave of computer-aided selling by arbitrageurs.

They said an increase in the central bank's official discount rate is expected shortly because of higher inflation in recent months and rapid growth in Japan's economy and money supply.

"We know it (the interest rate hike) is coming, but the problem is no one knows when and how much the hike will be," said Keiichi Nishida of Kidder Pe-

body Securities. "So, many investors are taking a wait-and-see stance until the uncertainties clear, leading to the low volume of trading in recent weeks."

Higher interest rates tend to discourage stock investment.

In the past week, volume traded on the first section of the exchange has averaged only about 400 million shares a day, about half the usual amount.

Officials at the Bank of Japan, whose official discount rate now stands at 4.25 per cent after three rises last year, said they still are watching economic conditions and have not decided on another hike.

While many investors stayed on the sidelines Friday and only a small number of shares changed hands, a wave of computer-aided programme selling by arbitrageurs hit the market, pulling down index-related shares sharply, traders said.

"The market is extremely vulnerable right now to such selling, because of the low volume of stocks being traded and small number of investors taking part," said Michio Katsumata of Nomura Securities Co. "The Tokyo market has never fluctuated this widely before arbitrage trading was brought in."

In arbitrage trading, participants profit from differences in prices for the same security in different markets, for example the spot and futures markets.

A finance ministry official, acknowledging confusion in the market over arbitrage trading, said

the ministry directed the securities industry Friday to report on their arbitrage activities. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition to investor anxiety over an interest rate hike, Katsumata also attributed the sluggish trading to seasonal factors, saying securities and trust fund companies were hesitating to increase their holding for fear of reporting losses at the approaching end of the fiscal year.

Most Japanese companies close their annual accounts at the end of March. Securities companies often cash in some of their holdings at that time to offset earlier losses.

Rumors about the emergence of another stock scandal, following last year's Recruit scandal, also discouraged many investors from entering the already bearish market, dealers said.

One rumor suggested that a major governing party politician may be arrested for illegal stock dealings, they said.

"I don't know how serious the rumors are this time, but they surely make investors think twice about buying new stocks," said a dealer with Tachibana Securities Co., speaking on condition of anonymity.

Volume on the first section of the exchange was estimated at a low 430 million shares, down from 550 million shares Thursday.

On the foreign exchange market, the U.S. dollar rose sharply against the Japanese yen, closing

at 146.47 yen, up 1.24 yen from Thursday's close of 145.23 yen. It was the dollar's highest level in Tokyo since Sept. 13, when it closed at 146.70 yen.

The dollar opened higher in Tokyo after its overnight surge against the yen, which also lost ground against other major currencies, including the Deutsche mark.

After opening at 146.20 yen, the dollar ranged between 145.95 and 146.60 yen during the day. In New York, the dollar closed Thursday at 146.53 yen, up from 145.50 yen Wednesday.

Currency dealers said the future direction of the U.S. currency remained uncertain because of the unpredictability of interest rates in the United States, West Germany and Japan.

"About half of traders say the dollar will go lower, and others predict it will rise further," said Toru Kanai, a foreign exchange analyst with New Japan Securities Co.

But dealers predicted more weakness for the Japanese currency because of market participants' frustration over the Bank of Japan's failure to raise interest rates.

Traders said the central bank sold dollars intermittently during the day Friday in an attempt to bolster the yen. The bank does not normally comment on its monetary actions.

But traders estimated the bank sold as much as \$1 billion, keeping the U.S. currency from rising above the 146.60 mark.

## World Bank begins financing Poland

WARSAW (AP) — Poland signed World Bank loan agreements for \$360 million Thursday, delivered with the promise that up to \$2.5 billion will be available if Poland sticks to its dramatic economic reform plan.

World Bank President Barber Conable also pledged that the total of \$5 billion his agency plans to lend in Eastern Europe in the next three years would not come at the expense of aid to impoverished nations elsewhere which have traditionally borrowed from the International Development Bank.

"We are expanding our role in Eastern Europe precisely because of our worldwide responsibilities and experience — and because Eastern Europe's agenda of change, growth and expanded human opportunity make a compelling claim on our resources," Conable told government officials.

But he said "assistance to Eastern Europe should be additional so as not to come at the expense of the poorer parts of the Third

World."

He said no Eastern European country is poor enough to qualify for the World Bank loans provided by its International Development Agency, and that the World Bank's strong capital position and access to funds will allow it to expand other lending without crowding out other regions.

The entry of the newly democratic nations of the East Bloc and their shattered economies into the competition for aid has left nations in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere worried that resources will dry up.

Even in Poland, there had been concern that other East Bloc countries following Warsaw's course toward reform, some of which have less-damaged industrial bases, will draw away needed Western assistance.

Poland withdrew from the Washington-based World Bank in 1954 and returned in 1986. The other East Bloc members are Hungary and Romania. Czechos-

lovakia, which also withdrew in 1954, applied in January to rejoin the bank, owned by the governments of 152 countries.

The loan agreements signed by Conable, Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, and Polish National Bank President Wladyslaw Baka, with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki looking on, are the first for Poland since it rejoined the World Bank.

A \$260 million loan will support industrial export, while the second \$100 million loan will finance agricultural development. Both 17-year loans are intended for enterprises that will "break bottlenecks" impeding production in Poland's outmoded industries and under-mechanised farming, said Janel Loos, the World Bank's expert on Poland.

The loans will go to the Polish National Bank, which will extend credit to commercial banks for lending to industries that meet the World Bank's criteria for viability and repayment poten-

tial. The World Bank expects to lend up to \$2.5 billion to Poland in the next three years, and Baka said Poland expects to receive about \$1 billion in the next year.

"Even the best machine cannot start if it doesn't have the right fuel. This fuel for the new Polish economy has to come to a large extent from outside of Poland," Baka said.

But the National Bank president said Poland's infrastructure is not yet sufficient to handle additional lending, and that the expansion of commercial banking and other changes are required.

"We are fully aware of the great organisational effort required to absorb such a large amount of credit," Baka said.

The World Bank will extend further credit as long as Poland continues its unprecedented effort to convert its staggering centrally-controlled economy into a market-driven system, Conable said.

## Expert predicts major role for gas

LONDON (R) — Natural gas is shaking off its image as oil's poor relation and looks set to play a major role in the developing world, the head of Britain's main gas utility has said.

Robert Evans, chairman of privatised British Gas PLC, said gas should exploit its nature as a clean, efficient and plentiful fuel to seek out new users, especially in poorer gas-producing countries where consumption is still low.

"Over the next decade... gas is expected to significantly penetrate developing country markets," he said at Britain's Institute of Petroleum, a major oil

industry forum.

"Until recently in much of the world gas was a stepchild, suffering the indignities of being either flared (burnt off) or capped (blocked in). It was often simply a nuisance or a disappointment. Now it is becoming a prime resource."

Evans said natural gas boosted its share of world energy consumption from only 10 per cent to more than 20 per cent over the last three decades, with particular success in the United States, Europe and Japan.

But the Middle East, Latin America and Africa still

accounted for less than a fifth of world gas consumption, despite holding more than half the world's gas reserves.

Higher oil prices could encourage poorer producers to up their domestic gas use, freeing more oil for export, Evans said.

Natural gas resources are known to exist in some 50 developing countries, around 30 of which are oil importers. Many of these nations were committed to boosting their own gas consumption in the coming decade, Evans said.

Using gas to generate electric-

ity could justify the cost of building gas distribution networks in these countries, carrying the fuel to other industries and homes at reasonable cost.

In addition, gas would benefit worldwide from increasing environmental concern among consumers, Evans said.

Gas is the cleanest fossil fuel, producing far less carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and other pollutants than oil or coal.

Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global warming, the so-called "greenhouse effect", while sulphur emissions can lead to acid rain.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, February 21, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	118.3	119.0
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	461.7	464.5
Pound Sterling	1148.0	1154.9	Dutch guilder	356.5	358.6
Deutsche mark	401.8	404.2	Swedish crown	109.9	110.6
Swiss franc	453.9	456.6	Italian lira (for 100)	54.2	54.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	192.1	193.3

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Feb. 17-21	Feb. 10-14
Daily average	JD 1,315,607	JD 1,459,108
Total volume	JD 6,578,035	JD 7,295,540
Total shares	3,904,114	3,809,774
No. of contracts	4,220	4,250
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 3,656,767 (55.6%)	JD 3,452,278 (47.3%)
Financial	JD 910,315 (13.8%)	JD 2,122,938 (29.1%)
Service	(28.7%)	(21%)
Insurance	(1.9%)	(2.6%)
Share price index	139.7	141.0
No. of companies	67	67
Price movement (rise)	28	27
(decline)	32	30
(stable)	7	10

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7073/83	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1990/2000	Canadian dollar
	1.6750/57	Deutsche marks
	1.8885/95	Dutch guilders
	1.4745/55	Swiss francs
	34.90/93	Belgian francs
	5.6750/6800	French francs
	1238/1239	Italian lire
	147.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.0860/0960	Swedish crowns
	6.4650/4700	Norwegian crowns
	6.4520/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	415.10/415.60	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market fell heavily under pressure from a sharp decline in Tokyo and a sell-off in the futures market. The All Ordinaries index dropped 27.9 to 1,580.1.

TOKYO — Prices nosedived in thin trading, falling through the 35,000 mark for the first time since just after the mini-crash in October. Chronic fears of high interest rates combined with futures-related selling to hammer the market. The Nikkei index closed at 34,890.97, down 935.87.

HONG KONG — Prices closed sharply lower but had staged a significant recovery from an earlier plunge sparked by losses in Tokyo. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,894.31, down 33.61.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed weaker across the board but were above the day's lows on late bargain-bunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 13.56 to 1,548.97.

FRANKFURT — The share market, ignoring a recovery in domestic bond prices, fell sharply, depressed by weakness in Japanese stocks. The DAX closed 30.51 points lower at 1,789.64.

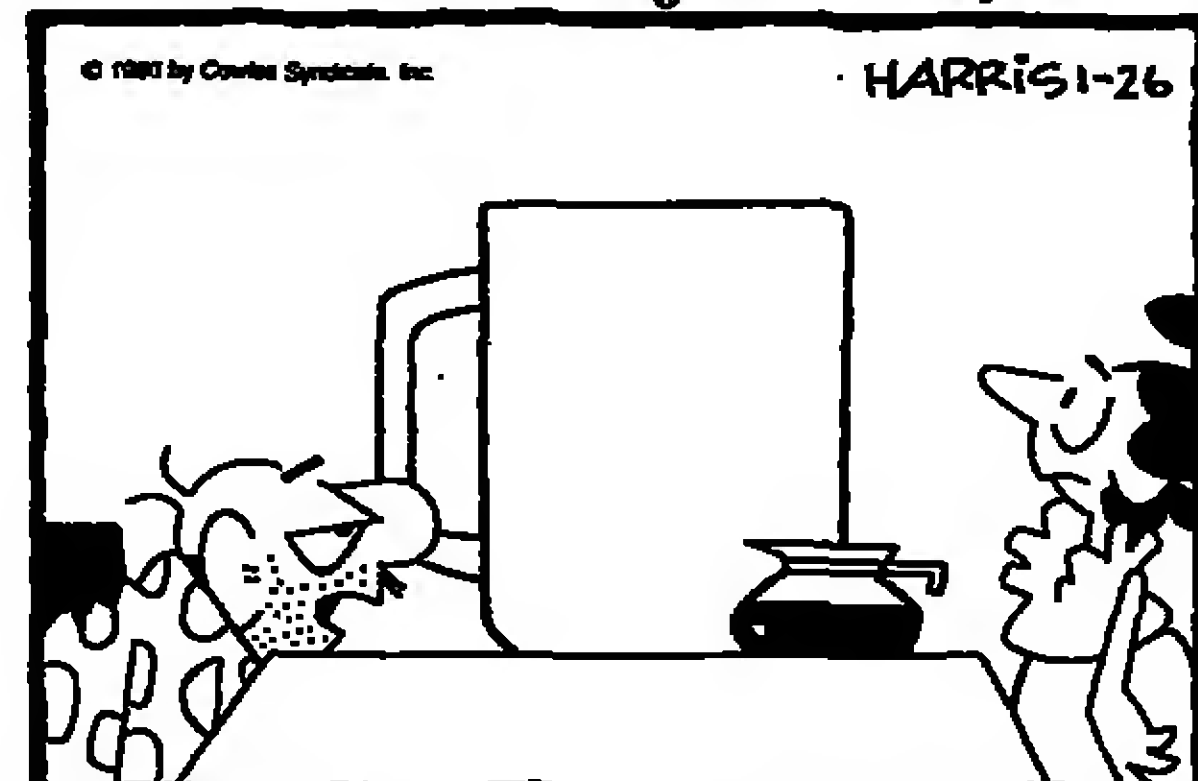
ZURICH — Swiss shares closed broadly lower with strong selling. The SPI lost 12 points to close at 1,101.

PARIS — French share prices ended lower in hectic trading on fears of inflationary pressures after news of a higher than expected January money supply increase. The CAC-40 closed down 33.29 points at 1,803.62.

LONDON — Shares stabilised above session lows after heavy falls in Tokyo stocks had pushed them to the lowest levels so far this year. By 1630 GMT the FTSE was down 32.7 at 2,236.5.

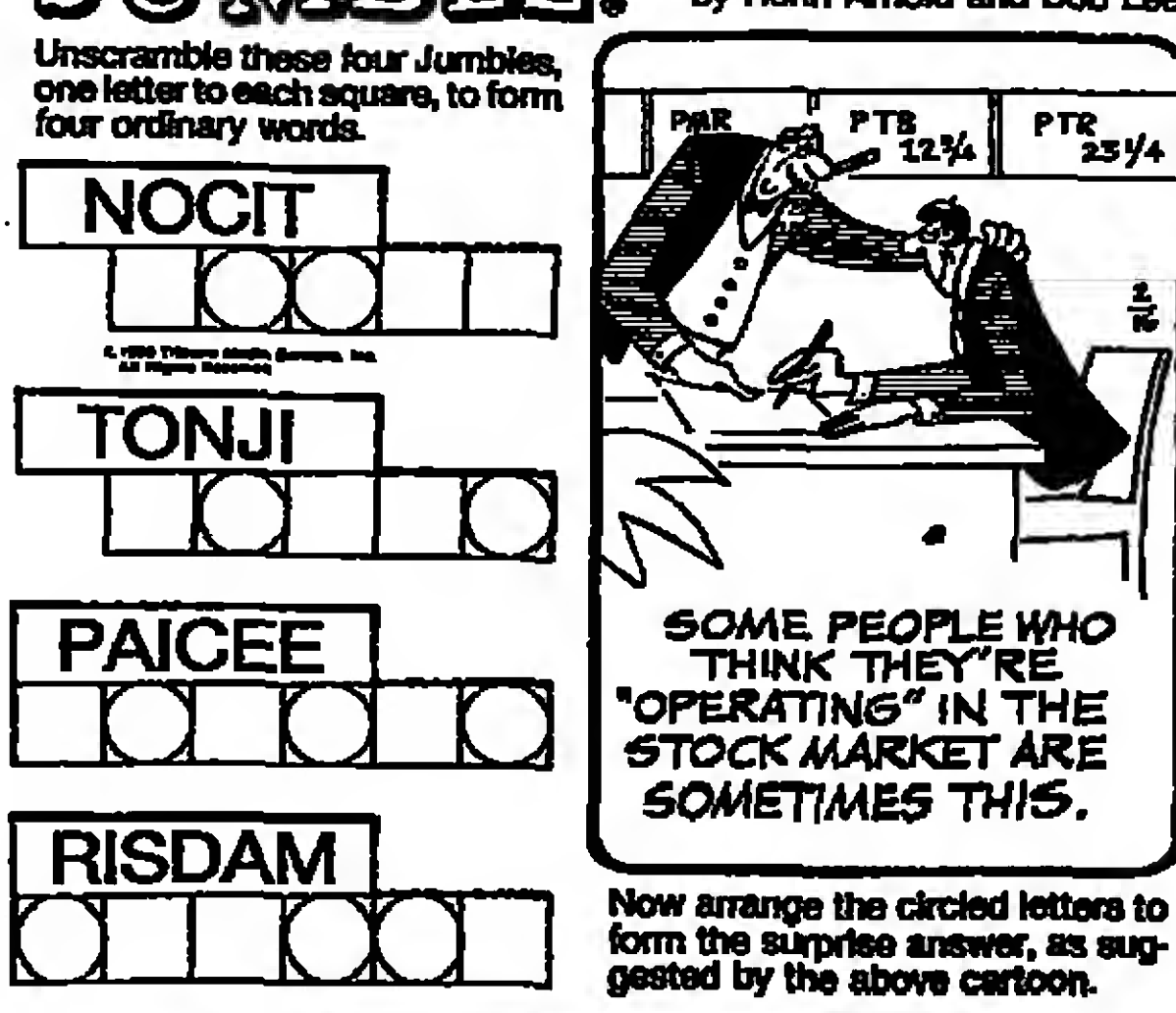
NEW YORK — A round of programme selling and a pullback in U.S. bond prices weighed heavily on U.S. stocks. The Dow was down 23 at 2,552.

### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"My doctor says I can have four cups of coffee a day."

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "FOUR CUPS OF COFFEE A DAY"

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOYER PLUSH LAVISH BARREN

Answer: What he claimed he gave his wife — THE BEST "EARS" OF HIS LIFE

Peanuts

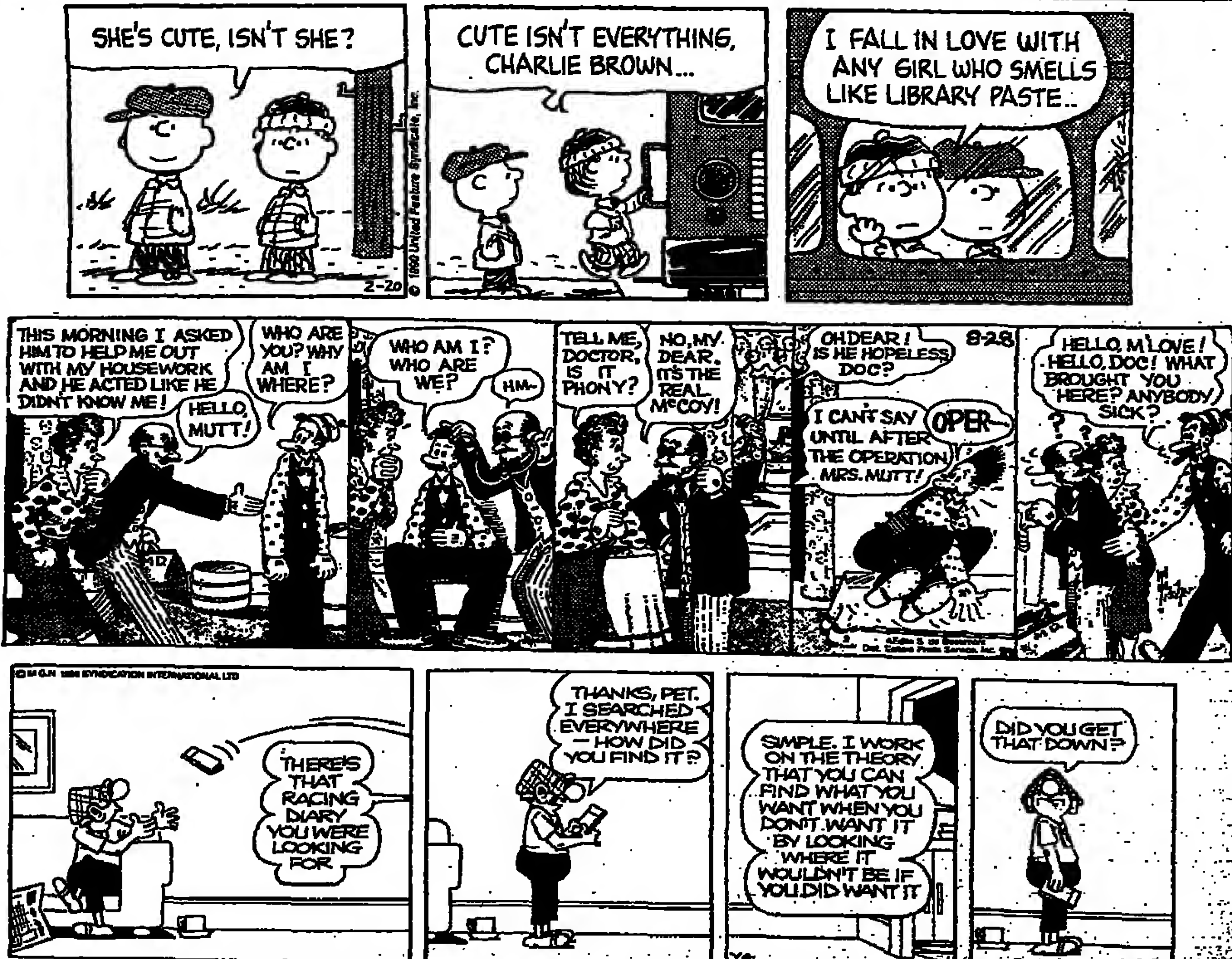
Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Andy Capp

Andy Capp

Andy Capp





## Bahrain, Qatar in goalless draw

KUWAIT (AP) — Bahrain and Qatar drew 0-0 in the 10th Gulf Arab football tournament being played at Kuwait's Peace and Friendship Stadium.

Four Bahrain players were booked by Chilean referee Martin Aurio as the teams played aimlessly across the pitch.

The ball rolled end to end but there were no positive moves from either side in the first half.

Qatar missed three close chances in the second half.

The tournament, held every two years by the Arab states of the Gulf region, is played by the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Iraq.

The seventh participant, Saudi Arabia, has boycotted the games.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
AND TAMMAM HUSSEIN  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ A 4 3 ♥ K Q J 3 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ 9 8 7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—In first or second seat, this is a difficult opening bid. But it is a classic third-hand right opening of one heart regardless of whether you play four or five-card majors. You are bidding the suit you want led, and you can comfortably pass any response partner makes.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7  
Partner opens the bidding in first seat with one club. What action do you take?  
A.—We know some who would respond one spade with this collection but, in the words of Samuel Goldwyn, "include us out!" That's asking for trouble. We doubt that the bidding will die at one club, but if it does and we miss game, that's life.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What action do you take?  
A.—You have promised nothing when you actually have a pretty good hand. You have five-card support for partner's first suit and a host of ruffing values. Tell partner of your distributional assets by jumping to four clubs. Since you couldn't bid over one club, partner won't expect more than this.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What is your opening bid?  
A.—If partner has as little as the right ace and king, you could come to 12 tricks. However, with your pronounced shortness in the major suits this is unlikely to be your hand! Bid five diamonds, to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to get into the auction.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—One of the features of your hand is that it is two-suited, and you should cue partner into the picture. Bid three clubs. Don't even think of any spade re-bid—two spades shows a far weaker hand and a jump to three spades would promise at least a six-card suit.
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ J 6 3 ♦ 9 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
What is your opening bid?  
A.—If partner has as little as the right ace and king, you could come to 12 tricks. However, with your pronounced shortness in the major suits this is unlikely to be your hand! Bid five diamonds, to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to get into the auction.

### THE Daily Crossword by Russell McDowell

**ACROSS**

- 1 Look afeared
- 2 Participle
- 3 Safe term
- 4 Leg
- 5 Begin quote
- 6 Dine
- 7 Sea, nest
- 8 Sprinkle with powder
- 9 Elmer —
- 10 Printer's term
- 11 Continue quote
- 12 Self or stew
- 13 Let
- 14 "Put — happy face"
- 15 Outlet
- 16 Zodiac sign
- 17 Champagne word
- 18 Noun suffix
- 19 Border lake
- 20 Delta of song
- 21 Continue quote
- 22 Amen
- 23 Diner
- 24 Flying prefix
- 25 Busy as —
- 26 Big — CA
- 27 End of quote
- 28 Fry
- 29 Ankle
- 30 Hang laxly
- 31 Drink class
- 32 Pile
- 33 Absent

**DOWN**

- 1 Bluster
- 2 Land mass
- 3 Catcher's glove
- 4 Silt, org.
- 5 City on the Rio Grande
- 6 Exaggerate
- 7 Silt, org.
- 8 A Wallach
- 9 Jazz type
- 10 Burrowing rodent
- 11 Thrasher
- 12 Leave out
- 13 Text: abbr.
- 14 Tehee e.g.
- 15 To wit
- 16 After song or
- 17 Capt. Hook's
- 18 man
- 19 Cuckoo
- 20 Quilting
- 21 Castle
- 22 Kurts —
- 23 "Roots"
- 24 Cut and — (ordinary)
- 25 Removed the center
- 26 Working
- 27 Spud
- 28 Eng.
- 29 composer
- 30 Fibers Sp.
- 31 Crooked
- 32 Bar legally
- 33 OT jumps
- 34 Jan of old
- 35 Winter fall
- 36 Pie — mode
- 37 Carve in relief
- 38 Carver's
- 39 Depend
- 40 Quisena
- 41 Shortly
- 42 Other
- 43 Haido
- 44 Winter fall
- 45 Pie — mode
- 46 Carve in relief
- 47 Carver's
- 48 Depend
- 49 Quisena
- 50 Shortly
- 51 Other
- 52 Haido
- 53 Winter fall
- 54 Pie — mode

**Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:**

1. Look afeared  
2. Participle  
3. Safe term  
4. Leg  
5. Begin quote  
6. Dine  
7. Sea, nest  
8. Sprinkle with powder  
9. Elmer —  
10. Printer's term  
11. Continue quote  
12. Self or stew  
13. Let  
14. "Put — happy face"  
15. Outlet  
16. Zodiac sign  
17. Champagne word  
18. Noun suffix  
19. Border lake  
20. Delta of song  
21. Continue quote  
22. Amen  
23. Diner  
24. Flying prefix  
25. Busy as —  
26. Big — CA  
27. End of quote  
28. Fry  
29. Ankle  
30. Hang laxly  
31. Drink class  
32. Pile  
33. Absent  
34. Carve in relief  
35. Carver's  
36. Depend  
37. Quisena  
38. Shortly  
39. Other  
40. Haido  
41. Winter fall  
42. Pie — mode

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**RAINBOW**

**OVER BOARD**

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 671420

**CONCORD**

Younis Shalabi, Sa'id Saleh, and Walid Saif in

**The Good, the Monster, and the Fierce** (Arabic)

Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## Agassi quits with food poisoning

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andre Agassi, the highest remaining seed in the \$1-million pro indoor tournament, quit suddenly because of food poisoning Thursday night, handing a 5-7, 7-5 victory to 13th-seeded Pete Sampras.

Suellen Foley, a spokeswoman for the tournament, said Agassi had eaten pasta Thursday evening at a Philadelphia restaurant and he would not identify and had a banana afterward.

"It's not the way I would have liked to have won, but I'll take it," Sampras said. "It don't get very many freebies playing top 10 guys."

Sampras said he had noticed Agassi slowing in the second set, but thought he would keep playing. "He went into the locker room and threw up, and usually when you throw up, you feel better, but he didn't, and he looked very pale," he said.

Agassi, the number three seed in the tournament, is the latest of a rash of upsets that have put top-seeded John McEnroe and number two seed Brad Gilbert out of the tournament. Fourth-seeded Jay Berger defeated Wally Masur Thursday.

Sampras started strongly in the first set, taking the first three games, but then losing momentum. Agassi came back to tie at 3-3, and then broke Sampras' service a second time to lead 6-5 in a deuce game. Agassi then served out the set at love and won as Sampras backhanded a return of service over the baseline.

In the hard-fought second set, Agassi and Sampras each broke the other's service twice in the first four games, then Sampras broke Agassi's service a third time in the 12th game on the fifth set point.

Earlier, fifth-seeded Tim Mayotte rallied from a first-set loss to defeat Glenn Layendecker 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) and gain a quarterfinal berth.

Mayotte and Layendecker served and volleyed strongly throughout the third set, neither breaking the other's service despite several opportunities.

"He's a difficult player to play because he hits the ball so hard, and it's kind of one-, two-shot, bang-bang tennis," said Mayotte, who survived a third-set tie-breaker for the second straight night.

Mayotte got the edge in the tie-breaker, 3-2, with a placement return of service, but then hit a high volley backhand on his next serve to make it 3-3.

## Soviet Union beats Costa Rica

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Soviet Union beat Costa Rica 2-1 to take third place in a four-team soccer tournament Thursday at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

An aggressive Soviet side overcame a one-goal Costa Rican lead at the end of the first half to win the match. Both teams have qualified for the World Cup in Italy this year.

Striker Juan Cayasso scored the first goal of the match with a direct free kick from just over 20 yards out in the 35th minute to put the Costa Ricans ahead.

Despite a strong attack and skillful passing, the Soviets were unable to score until midway through the second half.

Soviet midfielder Gennadi Litovchenko scored unassisted with a kick from the right side in the 68th minute that bounced in off the opposite post to even the score at 1-1.

Forward Fedor Cherenkov fired in a 10-yard kick from in front of the goal in the 76th minute with an assist from teammate Oleg Protasov to bring the Soviets ahead.

Despite the win, Soviet head coach Valeri Lobanovsky said he was unhappy with the team's play.

"We were totally unsatisfied with our performance. We are only satisfied with the result," Lobanovsky said.

"The performance of the team does not match the structure that we have developed in preparation for the World Cup, and that has to do with the condition of the players," Lobanovsky said.

Costa Rica's head coach Marvin Rodriguez credited the Soviets' aggressive play for the win.

"They maintained a good rhythm and a good pace," Rodriguez said. He said the Costa Rican lead in the first half helped spur the Soviets.

"They were backed up against the wall," he said.

Costa Rica will make its first appearance in the World Cup soccer finals in Italy in June.

Lobanovsky declined to comment on his team's chances in the World Cup. The Soviets best finish in the World Cup was fourth in 1966.

"We do not know what conditions the players will be in, and at this point we do not know the players who will be representing us," Lobanovsky said.

The Soviet side is missing Alexei Mikhailichenko, one of the stars of the 1988 European competition, injured recently in training. The Soviets were runners-up at the 1988 European championship.

Thursday's Soviet win follows a 1-0 loss to Colombia Tuesday on a penalty shoot-out after the teams went scoreless in regulation play.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A day when you can be most outgoing in expressing your patriotism and when you can think out the ways and means by which to extend your finest philosophy, so that others benefit by it.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Try to make arrangements to visit a good friend at a distance. Welcome good friends of your attachment who come from a distance.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You now have new and more understanding friends in your social circle. Be more responsive to suggestions made by members of your own household.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A young can now bring a considerable amount of joy into your dwelling. You and your attachment now see the way to have more happiness future in your lives.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A friendly couple should now be wholeheartedly accepted into your circle of friendships. You and your family would be wise to accept outside invitations.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Going to new entertainments with good friends will bring much pleasure. Don't hesitate, but tell your loved one your true views and time now.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Home is the best place to make friends with these characters you have recently met. You and your loved one should now talk everything out frankly.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Going with friends on visits to their kin and relatives will make this an interesting day. Many persons in your home now can be very helpful to you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is your day to remember and to communicate with good friends at a distance. Much activity in your dwelling now should please you very much.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Invitations from prosperous persons are now in the offering for you. Be careful in travelling on the highway with your mate now.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your temptation to spend more than is wise should be sternly controlled. Give a practical present and encouragement now to your loved one.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Entertain confidential friends and advisors in your home today. Take your attachment with you at your social activities.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Younger persons can now be very helpful to you in your home. Invite them in. Don't take seriously your attachment's present temporary mood.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be an extremely interesting youngster who richly deserves being very emotional and highly subjective at one moment and very cold and calculating the next. Fine training in both ethics and business will bring out their finer qualities.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Cinema Tel: 634144

**PHILADELPHIA**

**IRON ANGELS "2"**

Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## Eurocard Classic: Lendl, Becker advance to quarterfinals

STUTTGART, West Germany (AP) — Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker both had to struggle Thursday before advancing to the quarterfinals of the \$1-million ATP Eurocard Classic tennis tournament.

Lendl, ranked number one in the world, received a warning before edging Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia 7-5, 6-4.

Becker, the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion from West Germany who is seeded second, fought hard for much of his match against hard-hitting Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union before finding his range to win the last three games for a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

Lendl received a warning for arguing with the umpire over a line call during the fifth game of the first set.

"They're all good players these days and there are only a few points here and there that make a difference," Lendl said. "That's why we get upset about bad calls because we realise how close everything is."

Lendl appeared in trouble at 1-4 in the second set and was missing seemingly easy shots, but suddenly his game clicked and he swept through the last five games.

Becker, meanwhile, praised Volkov's game.

"He's a very difficult player to use tactics against because he can hit almost every shot in the book," Becker said.

Volkov's powerful two-handed backhand often caught Becker out and should have reaped better rewards in the deciding set.

The left-handed Soviet player held breakpoints in each of Becker's first three service games in the final set but he could not make them work to his advantage.

Becker often hit long or wide but whenever he was threatened his powerful serve rescued him.

"The surface is quite slow and the balls are heavy which makes it difficult for a serve and volley player like me to win easily," Becker said.

After failing to break Volkov's serve for a set and a half, Becker finally grabbed the advantage in the eighth game of the final set, breaking for a 5-3 lead.

The second-seeded Becker then clinched the match in the next game with a service winner.

Earlier Thursday, third-seeded Yannick Noah of France suffered his second successive early-round loss in a major tournament.

## East Germans plan to sell off sporting secrets

By Adrian Warner  
Reuters

EAST BERLIN — East German plans to sell off the secrets behind its remarkable success in international sport in a bid to save its sport world from bankruptcy.

Battling to find cash to finance the clubs, coaches and sports schools that were given major funding by East Germany's former hard-line Communist rulers, the state wants to market its scientific, medical and coaching know-how to the West.

The knowledge is widely believed to have played a major role in helping the country of less than 17 million people to win the second highest number of gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Since the overthrow of the Communist old guard late last year, East Germany has moved fast to set up its first sports sponsoring agency, a government-backed company led by the former manager of the state's ice-skating star Katarina Witt.

It has plans to market training techniques, kept secret for years, such as a pressurised underground bunker at Kienbaum near East Berlin where athletes can tune their bodies in simulated altitude conditions of up to 4,000 metres.

"There are going to be no more secrets any more about East German sport. That is stupid," the agency's manager Dieter Fuchs told Reuters in an interview.

"Sport has always been well backed up by scientific study here. We need to sell the know-how of places like Kienbaum and the knowledge of our trainers," he said.

"I'm sure there is interest abroad on the former secrets of East German sport. We have already had offers from interested people in the United States."

Fuchs believes the West will be eager to employ East German trainers on coaching camps abroad in the state's leading sports such as athletics, swimming and rowing.

Plans are afoot to rent out places like Kienbaum to foreign athletes. The country's pressure-cooker sports schools, which nurture the talents of six to 18-year-olds, could soon be open to children from the West for the first time.

The agency, whose chief executive Heinz Czerwinski was Witt's chief aide, believes many countries will also be interested in some of the scientific testing equipment which fuelled much of the country's success.

Kienbaum and Leipzig's sports science development centre opened their doors for the first time recently, revealing a multitude of special instruments which helped top-class athletes prepare for Olympic success.

In Leipzig, for instance, top swimmers pounded up and down a special tank while recordings and photographs were taken of their techniques above and below the water.

Wrestlers improved their holding techniques by fighting a hard, cylinder-shaped padded bag which a machine moved fast into different positions.

At Kienbaum, athletes packed into two pressure chambers — both half the size of a basketball court — to run on treadmills or practise at simulated altitude, thereby helping the body improve its circulation of oxygen.

Fuchs, a former leading East German soccer coach, uses freely words like public relations, sponsorship, marketing and advertising which less than six months ago were unutterable in East Germany's powerful sports federation (DTSB).

In the past, the 600 sports officials working in the characterless seven-storey building where his new office is based carried out the orders of the Communist rulers who pumped money into top-class sport to gain international prestige.

Athletes were strictly forbidden from signing individual contracts with sponsors and the only

major commercial deal with the West concerned a West German sports clothing firm that supplied kit to some of the national teams, Fuchs said.

Now, with budget cuts planned, the whole structure of East German sport is in danger of collapsing. Officials know many top athletes could abandon the country and their flow of young talent could dry up if they don't find the cash.

One of the agency's first priorities is to win sponsors for sports clubs.

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**Energy Development Project**  
**(Invitation for bids (IFB))**

Date:  
Loan 2710-JO  
IFB No. 3/89

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Computer System And Network and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Sixth Power Project.
2. The Irbid District Electricity Company now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, installation and commissioning of Computer System And Network.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

**Director General**  
**Irbid District Electricity Company**  
P.O. Box 46, Irbid - Jordan  
Telex 51528 KHRBCO JO

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$75 or JD equivalent.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than 2% of the bid price and must be delivered to the above office on or before 1200 hours (local time) on Monday April 9, 1990.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 1200 hours on the date given in the letter supplied with these documents at the offices of Irbid District Electricity Company.

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U.S. defence secretary reassures allies

# Cheney confirms troop cut plan in Asia, Pacific

**TOKYO (R)** — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Friday confirmed an American plan to cut its Asia-Pacific forces by 10 per cent, but promised worried allies Washington would not create a power vacuum by withdrawing from the region.

In a major policy speech at the end of a two-week Pacific tour, Cheney said 120,000 U.S. troops as well as warships and aircraft were a bulwark of stability in the financially booming region.

"It is important to stress that we are not talking about a first step toward withdrawal," he told the Japan National Press Club, reassuring Pacific rim allies who fear the American military umbrella might be folded up and shipped home.

"If we were to withdraw our forward-deployed forces from the Asia-Pacific region, a vacuum would quickly develop. There almost surely would be a series of destabilising regional arms races, an increase in regional tension and possibly conflict," he said.

Cheney said he had discussed a modest removal of U.S. troops in the region during talks with leaders in South Korea, the Philippines and Japan.

"It is on the order of approximately 10 per cent scattered across the region ... the time frame we are talking about is three years," he said.

Cheney declined to give a breakdown on where withdrawals might occur, saying that decision had not been made yet. The United States maintains 43,500 troops in South Korea, more than 50,000 in Japan and Okinawa and nearly 18,000 in the Philippines.

In his speech, Cheney stressed that the Soviet Union was not the only reason for a balancing U.S.

presence in the region. In addition to a modern Soviet military in Asia, he said, the Bush administration saw potential for internal unrest and regional conflict involving a number of Asian countries.

"North Korea, Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and perhaps others may well undergo significant internal changes... It's an open question as to how those changes will affect regional stability," he said.

India and China continued to emerge as regional powers and the United States was unsure what the effect would be, he added.

"Numerous countries in the region have territorial claims and counter-claims that periodically flare up... the potential danger of the flare-ups is seriously heightened by the spread of intermediate range ballistic missiles and by the increasing capabilities of near-nuclear states in the region," he said.

Cheney did not name such countries, but many members of the U.S. Congress have accused Pakistan of moving to the brink of building its own nuclear weapons.

As a symbol of American commitment to stability in Asia, Cheney announced that the United States intended to replace the 45-year-old aircraft carrier Midway with the newer carrier Independence at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan next year.

The conventionally powered

## Cardinal refuses to testify in Philippines coup plot

**MANILA (AP)** — The archbishop who helped negotiate the surrender of rebel soldiers during a coup attempt in December has refused to testify in an investigation of the mutiny, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported Friday.

The report quoted a spokesman for Cardinal Ricardo Vidal as saying that the Cebu archbishop's testimony "may be divisive and this will go against the pastoral approach of the cardinal and the church."

"If we issue any statement, we will lose our credibility in any future negotiation effort," the news agency quoted Msgr. Achilles Dakay, Vidal's spokesman, as saying.

The cardinal helped negotiate the surrender of troops under the Mactan Air Base near Cebu, 560 kilometres southeast of Manila, during the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino.

Aquino created a five-member civilian fact-finding commission to look into the causes of the rebellion, the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her government.

Meanwhile, opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Friday said the Philippines is worse off under Corazon Aquino and apologist for helping install her as president in the 1986 "people power" revolt.

"I'm sorry," Enrile said during a call-in programme on radio station DZRH. "I apologise that the people in power now have different goals. I am asking your apology because we all made a mistake."

Enrile, President Ferdinand Marcos' defence minister, led a handful of reformist military officers who mutinied against Marcos following the fraud-marred Feb. 7, 1986 presidential election decided against Mrs. Aquino.

## Japanese satellites lost in Ariane blast

**KOUROU, French Guiana (R)** — An unmanned European Ariane rocket exploded shortly after lift-off from its jungle launch-pad in South America overnight, destroying two Japanese satellites in a \$430-million disaster.

The domed spaceflight, delayed last November when the American-built satellites were damaged in the San Francisco earthquake, ended in a ball of fire above the Atlantic Ocean one minute and 40 seconds after launch from Kourou, French Guiana.

Kourou's 12,000 inhabitants were advised to shelter indoors

for at least an hour for fear of toxic gases released by the explosion.

"Naturally we are sorry for the two Japanese clients and for the insurers, who, I think have also lost a bit of money, or probably a lot of money," said Roland Deschamps, managing director of Western Europe's Arianeespace conglomerate.

"It must be understood that all such unmanned launches, whether they be American or Russian, have a failure rate of about 10 per cent," he told reporters at the space centre in France's equatorial territory.

Deschamps noted that prior to the explosion of its 36th mission, Ariane had enjoyed a run of 17 successful launches. It was the company's fifth failure and its first loss since September, 1987.

Earlier, Arianeespace Chairman Frederick d'Allest said all future missions would be suspended until the cause of the accident, the first suffered by the company's latest Ariane-4 rocket, was established.

Beyond saying there was a problem in the rocket's propulsion system, officials have not commented on the cause of the explosion.

## Soviet citizens' groups gear up for mass weekend rallies

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Citizens' groups in major Soviet cities are preparing for mass rallies this weekend to push their calls for greater political freedom, and Communist Party leaders are warning them not to create "chaos."

The rallies scheduled for Sunday grew out of the success of a Feb. 4 protest, when a column of demonstrators — 60 people wide and more than a kilometre long — paraded through the streets of Moscow demanding that the Communist Party give up its grip on power.

The rallies and demonstrations called for this weekend will be the first major public gatherings since the party's Central Committee approved a proposal on Feb. 7 to renounce the Communists' monopoly on power, paving the way for a multiparty system.

Many of the rallies are being organised by citizens' popular front movements, which have been pushing for greater political freedom during the past two years.

But the Central Committee has urged citizens to stay away from the new demonstrations. In television and radio broadcasts Thursday and again Friday, the policy-making body of the party urged Soviet citizens to oppose attempts to create "chaos."

Earlier in the week, the Soviet legislature issued a decree calling on local authorities to crack down on illegal protests Sunday and to

strictly control those demonstrations that are permitted.

The Supreme Soviet decree allows only officially sanctioned rallies to take place, and already groups in the Uzbekistan capital of Tashkent have been denied permission to hold an outdoor gathering, although an indoor meeting will be allowed.

Leningrad activists were denied a request to stage a march and instead will hold a rally at a sports complex.

Organisers of Sunday's rally in Moscow have received permission to gather, and the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) quoted Vladimir Kamchatov of the Elector's Association as predicting that up to 300,000 people might turn out.

Demonstrations are planned in a number of provincial cities across the vast Russian Republic, which stretches from Finland to the Sea of Japan.

The gatherings come just before March 4 elections to choose members of the Russian Republic's legislature. Elections also are scheduled that day in the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

Mikhail Tkachev, leader of the Byelorussian Popular Front, said that during Sunday's meeting in the capital of Minsk his movement will demand registration of candidates that local authorities have refused to place on the ballot.

Demonstrations are planned throughout the Ukraine, which last summer was rocked by strikes

and where regional party leaders have been resigning under public pressure with growing regularity.

All independent political groups have been invited to take part in a rally in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, while a regional strike committee formed last summer is leading the rally in Donetsk.

In Azerbaijan, where a state of emergency was imposed on Jan. 20 following a bloody week of ethnic unrest, Yusif Samed Oglu of the Popular Front said no rallies were planned out of fear that soldiers would use force against the crowd.

But in Armenia, which is locked in a territorial dispute with Azerbaijan, a meeting is planned to honour the 125th anniversary of the birth of Andronik, an Armenian military commander who fought against the Turks in 1920s.

The three Baltic republics, where independence movements are among the strongest in the 15 Soviet republics, are taking a low-key approach to the day of demonstrations.

Rallies are not scheduled in Lithuania, which is holding elections Saturday, the day before the nationwide protests, or in neighbouring Latvia, which is gearing up for March 18 elections to the republican legislature.

However, activists in the third and smallest Baltic republic — Estonia — said a gathering was being organised for Sunday.

## Nicaraguan leaders call for peaceful vote

**MANAGUA (AP)** — The leading presidential candidates, top election observers and the Roman Catholic Church are united in their calls for a peaceful vote in Sunday's elections.

"All parties and alliances should let Feb. 25's voting take place without demonstrations or victory celebrations that could provoke violence," said opposition presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Chamorro's United National Opposition (UNO) coalition and President Daniel Ortega's Sandinista Party have accused each other of planning violent acts, but their rhetoric has toned down as election day approaches.

Ortega said he personally believes Chamorro is sincere in her wish to avoid violence, but said he was not certain of others in her

14-party coalition. "We need to create a climate of reconciliation and speak a language of peace," said Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua. "If Nicaragua does not put an end to violence, violence will put an end to Nicaragua."

Joao Baena Soares, the secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS), addressed a special appeal to "those involved in military activities," which would include the Sandinista army and the U.S.-backed guerrillas known as contras.

Baena Soares and other observers said conditions exist for a fair vote Sunday, although U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Washington that the Un-

ited States would have to make up its own mind about that. Ortega has struck conciliatory notes toward both the opposition and the United States as he anticipates victory, especially after a massive Sandinista rally Wednesday night that drew 300,000 people, one-tenth of the nation's population.

"After the election I will propose a political truce so that we can concentrate all our forces and resources on lifting the economy," Ortega said at a news conference.

Ortega brushed aside Baker's statement that a normalisation of U.S.-Nicaragua relations would be contingent on a "period of good behaviour" in the event of a Sandinista victory.

"I expect Mr. Baker will be

disposed to discuss the fundamental problems between us," said Ortega. "We have to do away with political rhetoric and work for peace."

Nicaragua's 1.75 million voters will elect a president, vice president, a 90-member assembly, 144 town and city councils and two regional councils Sunday.

The main face-off is between Chamorro and Ortega, who is seeking re-election to a six-year term.

Eight other candidates are running for president, but only Erick Ramirez's Social Christians are considered to draw any significant number of votes. The Social Christians expect Chamorro's UNO coalition to favour whether it wins or loses and hope to end up as the second largest single party in Nicaragua.

## Iran-contra figure indicted

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — An operative in a secret supply network to the Nicaraguan contras was indicted Thursday on charges of failing to report some of his income from arms sales.

The indictment says that Thomas G. Clines, a business partner of Iran-contra figures Richard Secord and Albert Hakim, reported receipts of \$265,000 for tax year 1985 and \$402,513 for 1986 from the arms business and other income sources.

However, the four-count indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in Baltimore, alleges that Clines failed to report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that he had foreign accounts totaling more than \$10,000.

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, whose administration was torn by the Iran-contra scandal, has testified that he did not know anything about one key to the affair — the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

## East Berlin mayor resigns after allegations of rigged elections

**WEST BERLIN (Agencies)** — East Berlin Mayor Erhard Krack handed in his resignation Friday, following allegations of rigged municipal elections last May.

Krack's letter was read aloud at the opening of a city parliament session which Krack did not attend due to illness.

By resigning Krack assumed political responsibility for the rigged election on May 7, 1989. He had announced earlier that he would step down.

Meanwhile, East Germany's government says it is having enormous difficulties providing people with food and may have to dip into national reserves to keep the country going. The army has been pressed into helping with food deliveries.

Worries about shortages have led to widespread panic buying and hoarding of essentials such as sugar and flour.

East Germans are also worried about the worth of their savings, although the Bonn government has said it is striving to achieve a one-to-one exchange to replace the current official three-to-one East German marks for West German marks.

The currency problems reach to the very basics of life for the 16 million East Germans, who fear their savings could be wiped out and jobs lost as the mighty West German market forces major economic shifts.

East Germany's government Thursday voted to allow private ownership of thousands of small businesses, to spur the faltering economy.

The country's leaders remain under heavy pressure, four weeks before the first free elections on March 18.

In Munich, the Sueddeutsche

Zeitung daily newspaper said Communist Premier Modrow had decided against being the embattled party's top candidate in next month's national elections.

However, a party spokesman said no final decision had been made. The Social Democratic Party, widely expected to be the dominant political force in East Germany after the elections, opened its first national convention in Leipzig Thursday.

"We are asking people to stay in this country and to work together in building up a democracy," party chief Ibrahim Boelmele told the more than 500 delegates meeting in the birthplace of East Germany's pro-democracy movement.

Already this year, about 100,000 East Germans have resettled in West Germany, joining the more than 340,000 from last year. West German officials say that tens of thousands more are "sitting on their suitcases" waiting to see what happens politically in East Germany.

The seemingly unstoppable exodus of young, skilled workers has virtually crippled much of East Germany's once-proud industry. Even a speedy unification is unlikely to halt the westward flow of people.

East Germany's Social Democrats will make former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt an honorary chairman during the weekend convention. The leftist West German Social Democrats under Brandt's guidance have been providing support to their East German sister party.

West German politicians have become increasingly active in the East German election campaign, leading to protests from the Communists.

He said there was the possibility officials would have to dip into the national emergency food reserves the government keeps on hand in case of a major crisis, but declined to give details about the amounts involved.

Flegel said the state-run food stores were reporting "three to four" times their normal re-

venues as consumers rush to buy flour, sugar, meat, butter and even jam.

"The government will maintain a stable food supply under all circumstances," Flegel said.

He said that emergency steps already taken include stepped-up animal slaughtering and special shifts for food production, while extra imports were a possibility.

"The army has already had to provide vehicles to help with food deliveries," Flegel said.

Tens of thousands of East Germans also have used their freedom of travel to buy food in neighbouring West Germany and West Berlin.

2.3 million to head West

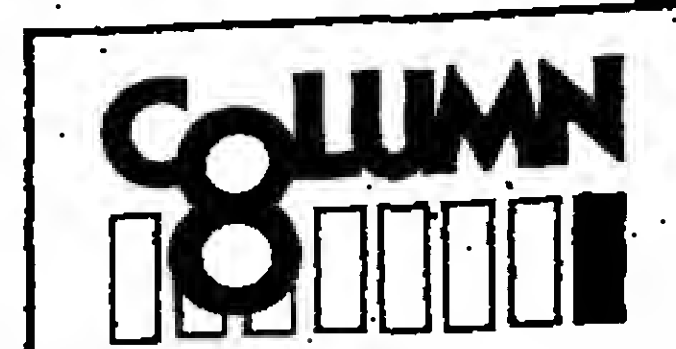
Meanwhile a new study released Thursday said that up to 2.3 million East Germans may resettle in West Germany this decade to escape chronic economic problems.

The number of resettlers — forecast at 1.8 million to 2.3 million — will depend in large part on the pace of political and economic reforms in East Germany, according to the DIW Research Institute of West Berlin.

The study did not specifically address the most recent steps toward unification. However, East Germany's severe economic problems, which have hastened since the disintegration of the Communist government, are such that the political merger of the two countries is unlikely to slow the migration to the prosperous West.

W. Germans claim land in East

With the opening of the Berlin Wall, West Germans are crossing the border to press thousands of



## Statue fuels controversy in Philadelphia

**PHILADELPHIA (R)** — Rocky Balboa, the fictional Philadelphia-based boxing hero of the popular Rocky films, is sparking a real-life spat in his hometown over the site of a permanent home for a \$53,000 three-metre bronze statue of him. The statue of Rocky, dressed in boxing shorts, was given to the city in 1982 by actor Sylvester Stallone, who commissioned it for use in Rocky III. Philadelphia-bred Stallone is the creator and star of the Rocky series, which chronicles Rocky's unlikely ascent from the streets of Philadelphia to the heavyweight championship. The actor, in town filming Rocky V, this week hired a local lawyer to secure a permanent home for the statue in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. His crusade was joined by Philadelphia Mayor Wilson Goode, who said the statue belongs in front of the art museum as a symbol of people who have risen from humble origins. A Pennsylvania state senator wants the state legislature to petition art museum authorities to keep the statue. But art museum officials consider the statue a movie prop unsuitable for the museum plaza that commands the most dramatic view of the city. Museum spokeswoman Barbara Pfanner said it does not fit the vast scale of the art museum plaza. "We are not art snobs," she said. Two media polls showed Philadelphians evenly split on the issue.

Divorce publicity helps Trump's business

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Donald Trump has said the screaming tabloid headlines, talk-show jokes and other publicity over his breakup with wife Ivana has boosted business for his multi-billion-dollar casino, hotel and airline empire. But the developer, who normally basks in the limelight of media attention, said in an interview he has paid a heavy personal price for any benefits to his business resulting from the unhappy marriage drama. "It's horrible. I hate it. I hate the publicity," Trump said in his glibly 26th-floor office commanding a view of New York's Central Park and the Plaza Hotel, another property he owns. "It's been on a personal basis difficult because I happen to like Ivana... But it's something you have to go through and in many cases a lot of people have to go through it. People grow apart." Trump said the splashing of his name over the media in the past two weeks, when word of the breakup came, has boosted business at his two hotel-casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the Plaza Hotel and the Trump Shuttle, which links New York with Washington and Boston. "The business has never been better... but because it's a private company most people don't know about it. Unfortunately, for all the wrong reasons, the last two weeks it's been even better yet." Trump said the potential loss of Ivana, his business partner and the manager of the opulent Plaza in Manhattan, wouldn't create a void in his organisation. "That's one of the reasons you sign a pre-nuptial agreement," Trump said. "If something should happen, you know what you have to pay out, and that's one of the reasons that when you're in business it's very important to have a pre-nuptial agreement signed." Under an agreement Mrs. Trump is contesting, she would receive \$25 million and the couple's home in Concord, Mass. as well as custody of their children. Trump's holdings are estimated to be worth up to \$4 billion.

Global weather (major world cities)

gins. A Pennsylvania state senator wants the state legislature to petition art museum authorities to keep the statue. But art museum officials consider the statue a movie prop unsuitable for the museum plaza that commands the most dramatic view of the city. Museum spokeswoman Barbara Pfanner said it does not fit the vast scale of the art museum plaza. "We are not art snobs," she said. Two media polls showed Philadelphia evenly split on the issue.

**Divorce publicity helps Trump's business**

M — indicates missing information.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japan's parliament to open on Feb. 27

**TOKYO (R)** — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his cabinet have called a session of Japan's parliament for Feb. 27, the prime minister's office said Friday. He is expected to name a new cabinet the same day after parliament formally re-elects him prime minister. Kaifu led the Liberal Democratic Party to victory in elections last Sunday, ensuring it continues to dominate the more powerful Lower House. It is in a minority in the Upper House. The parliamentary session is scheduled to last 120 days and will debate such issues as an unpopular sales tax, regulations to improve political ethics and a budget. Kaifu is expected to deliver a policy speech on March 2.

### 69 hurt outside Vienna's opera ball

**VIENNA (R)** — Sixty policemen and at least nine demonstrators were injured in a night of clashes outside Vienna's exclusive opera ball, the city's police and ambulance services said Friday. A police spokesman said the injuries occurred when the authorities moved in to prevent a crowd of several hundred reaching the lavish opera house complex Thursday night. As Vienna's rich slipped champagne and walked inside the building, 14 policemen were taken to hospital, three with serious injuries after running battles outside, police said. An ambulance spokesman said 16 demonstrators and one bystander were hurt, but police knew of only nine injured demonstrators. The police said they had detained 10 people but released six of them later. Earlier, thousands of young people staged a peaceful protest march against social inequality as the ball, highlight of the Vienna elite's social calendar, opened to the strains of Johann Strauss' traditional Radetzky March.

### Australia siezes record cocaine haul

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Customs officials on Friday reported making Australia's biggest cocaine seizure after intercepting 28 kilograms of the white powder from a flight that originated in Miami, Florida. Spokesman Alastair Wilson said two men, an Australian and a Spanish national, made separate court appearances Friday charged with the importation of the cocaine on Feb. 7. The cocaine had a street value of 28 million Australian dollars (\$21 million), Wilson told the Associated Press. He said the haul originated in Miami before being transported to Panama, where it was put on an Iberian Airlines flight through Madrid to London and finally to Sydney. Wilson said the cocaine was concealed in a wooden crate containing a fiberglass car body. The Spanish national was identified as 51-year-old Jose Luis Marquina. The identity of the Australian was not immediately available.

### Sihanouk returns to live in Cambodia

**ODDAR MEANCHHEY PROVINCE, Cambodia (AP)** — Rebel leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned to Cambodia Friday after 11 years in exile, planning to live in an area "liberated" from the pro-Vietnamese government by the guerrillas. The prince smiled and waved as he crossed from Thailand to a parched field about 100 metres inside this western border province, where his guerrillas have made significant inroads in recent months. About 100 civilians waved flags and chanted, "long live his royal highness." Sihanouk said he would live in the "liberated zone" until the entire country was freed.

### U.S. agents raid Northrop B-2 plant

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — U.S. government agents searched a Northrop Corp. B-2 bomber plant last week, an indication that a criminal investigation of the 70 billion Stealth programme is escalating, a newspaper reported Thursday. A warrant authorised the Feb. 15 search at the Pico Rivera facility where parts for the radar-evading bomber are made, Northrop spokesman Tony Cantafio said. He said the agents took some documents during the search, but he did not describe them. Federal authorities would not confirm the existence of such a warrant. The Justice Department has been conducting a criminal probe for more than a year, the Los Angeles Times reported.

### Big demonstration held in Timisoara

**BUCHAREST (R)** — Thousands of people have demonstrated against the provisional government in Timisoara, cradle of Romania's revolution, local journalists reported. The journalists, contacted by telephone from Bucharest Friday, said 4,000 to 5,000 people took part. The demonstration was peaceful but the crowd chanted slogans against President Ion Iliescu and the provisional government.